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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Soviet Embassy Reports Reduction in Personnel *[Madrid EFE]* 1
Namibia's Nujoma Continues Official State Visit 1
Tours Pan-American Facilities *[Havana TV]* 1
Visits Isle of Youth *[Havana Radio]* 1
Conducts Tour With Castro *[Havana TV]* 1
Castro Visits Guira de Melena Vegetable Farm *[Havana Radio]* 2
Comparison of Castro Speech to PCC Assembly 2
* Food Program: Distribution Problems Discussed 2
* Streamlining Sought *[GRANMA 19 Jan]* 2
* Possible Container Shortage *[JUVENTUD REBELDE 20 Jan]* 3

Grenada

Printing Delays Bishop Murder Appeal Verdict *[CANA]* 4

Haiti

Chamber Votes Aristide Six-Month Reform Limit *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 4
Aristide Views War Cost, Foreign Aid Priorities *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Tortured Political Prisoners Sue General Avril *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Opposition Expected To Name Shadow Cabinet *[CANA]* 6

Trinidad and Tobago

Processing of Venezuelan Crude Set To Begin *[CANA]* 6

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Cristiani Sees FMLN Truce as 'Positive Signal' *[San Salvador Radio]* 7
Truce Termed 'Propaganda Ploy' *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 7
Defense Minister on Plan To Guarantee Elections *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 8
University Poll Shows Arena Losing Elections *[San Salvador Radio]* 8
FMLN Reportedly Threatens Mayoral Candidates *[EL MUNDO 28 Feb]* 8
Correction to FMLN Communique on Truce 9

Guatemala

Country Not Listed as Human Rights Violator *[SIGLO VEINTIUNO 26 Feb]* 9
Men Open Fire at Canadian Embassy; No Casualties *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 10
Journalist Released From Jail, Charges Dropped *[SIGLO VEINTIUNO 26 Feb]* 11

Nicaragua

FSLN Issues Communique on Economic Situation *[BARRICADA 4 Mar]* 11
Daniel Ortega on Government Economic Policy *[Managua Radio]* 12
FNT Issues Communique on Economic Measures *[Managua Radio]* 13
* Rosario de Murillo Comments on FSLN Crisis *[EL NUEVO DIARIO 24 Jan]* 13
* Murillo Suggests Changes in FSLN Mechanisms *[EL NUEVO DIARIO 4 Feb]* 14
* Commentary Views Principal FSLN Factions *[LA PRENSA 25 Jan]* 16

Panama

Colonel Diaz Herrera Interviewed From Caracas *[Panama City Radio]* 17
Director Says Police Not Ready To Defend Canal *[CRITICA LIBRE 1 Mar]* 18
New Appointments at Attorney General's Office *[LA PRENSA 2 Mar]* 19

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Cavallo Gives Overview of Economic Situation *[TELAM]* 20
Tariff Restructuring Detailed *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 2 Mar]* 20
Companies Invited To Aid in Kuwait's Rebuilding *[TELAM]* 20
Railway Conflict Continues; Trustee Appointed *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 3 Mar]* 20
Government Closes Several Railroad Lines *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 21

Bolivia

Minimun Salary Increase of 100 Percent Ordered *[La Paz Radio]* 21
* 1991 Budget To Be Presented to Congress 21
* Budget Allocations *[LOS TIEMPOS 19 Jan]* 21
* Breakdown by Department *[LOS TIEMPOS 22 Jan]* 22

Brazil

Economic Policy Official Views Collor-2 Plan *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 3 Mar]* 23
Former Minister Criticizes Economic Measures *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 28 Feb]* 24
Banco do Brasil To Close Many Branches, Offices *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 25
Petrobras Dismisses Striking Oil Workers *[Brasilia Radio]* 25
Santos Port Workers End Strike; 5,000 Reinstated *[Brasilia Radio]* 25
State of Emergency Declared in Much of Bahia *[Madrid EFE]* 25
Drought Damages Crops in Rio Grande do Sul *[Brasilia Radio]* 26
* Expansion of Activities in Antarctica Viewed *[MANCHETE 9 Feb]* 26

Chile

Aylwin Addresses Nation on Human Rights Report *[Santiago TV]* 27
Doctor Accused of Human Rights Abuses Killed *[Madrid EFE]* 31
Government, Army Reaction Noted *[Madrid EFE]* 32
Two Mormon Chapels Bombed; No Injuries Reported *[Santiago Radio]* 32
Supreme Court Head Reveals Anti-Court Campaign *[Santiago Radio]* 32
USSR Labor Union Delegation Conducts Visit *[EL MERCURIO 23 Feb]* 33
Visit by Romanian Prime Minister Roman Previewed *[Santiago Radio]* 33

Colombia

Segment of Oil Pipeline Blown Up in Antioquia *[Bogota Radio]* 34
Guerrillas Reiterate Willingness To Talk *[Bogota Radio]* 34
CNG Wants Removal of Battalions From La Uribe *[Bogota TV]* 34
Quintin Lame To Sign 'Final' Peace Accord *[Bogota TV]* 34
Gaviria's U.S. Trip, Meeting With Bush Analyzed *[EL TIEMPO 27 Feb]* 35
Paper Surveys Constituent Assembly Meetings *[EL NUEVO SIGLO 25 Feb]* 36
Decree 416 Instituting War Taxes Published *[EL TIEMPO 12 Feb]* 37
CNG Rejects War Tax *[EL NUEVO SIGLO 24 Feb]* 39

Peru

Cholera Epidemic Updated; 45,000 Cases Reported *[Madrid EFE]* 39
Fear Cited for Lower Inflation *[Madrid EFE]* 39
* Editorial Discusses Nation's Present, Future *[PERU ECONOMICO Jan]* 40

Uruguay

Opposition Leaders Review Government's 1st Year *[Montevideo Radio]* 41
Ministry Officials Accused of Counterfeiting *[Montevideo Radio]* 41
Feb Inflation Rate Reported at 3.5 Percent *[Montevideo Radio]* 41
Salaries To Remain Unchanged *[Montevideo Radio]* 41
Bank of Uruguay, Central Bank Settle Argument *[Montevideo Radio]* 41

Venezuela

* Commentary Views Bush's Enterprise for Americas *[EL UNIVERSAL 23 Jan]* 42
* President Perez' Leadership Style Described *[ZETA 17 Jan]* 43
* Zulia Governor Reviews Progress Made in 1990 *[EL NACIONAL 21 Jan]* 43

Cuba

Soviet Embassy Reports Reduction in Personnel

PA0403133691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2024 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Havana, 2 Mar (EFE)—Soviet Embassy sources told EFE in Havana today that the USSR reduced 50 percent of its technical and specialized personnel in Cuba during 1990 and that personnel will be further reduced this year.

There were 3,200 Soviet advisers and technicians in different fields in Janaury 1990. These people were primarily assigned to industrial plants, nickel production, oil prospecting, and electric and atomic power generation.

According to the USSR diplomatic source, the Soviet staff in Cuba was reduced to 1,500 people in January 1991 and 500 more are expected to leave the island before 1 April.

This measure is based on the changes that have taken place in the Soviet Union's economic structure. The USSR has introduced market economy mechanisms in its trade relations and cooperation with the Caribbean island and these were already included in the bilateral agreements signed in Moscow in December.

The Soviet Embassy believes that an "adequate number" of personnel in Cuba should be approximately 1,100 to 1,200. The majority of the staff remaining should be the advisers to the construction of the Juragua electronuclear plant in Cienfuegos Province, 381 km from Havana.

According to Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Yuriy Petrov, the Soviet personnel has been reduced because "the expertise of our specialists is required less as the Cuban technicians, owing to their training in the USSR, have become very efficient."

The changes in the USSR have also brought about a reduction in trade between Cuba and the USSR. Trade amounted to 8.663 billion rubles in 1989 and dropped to 7,073 billion rubles in 1990.

The Soviet Union continues to be the primary economic partner of Cuba, with which it holds 70 percent of its trade. The trading activity includes oil, food, and raw material. The USSR also cooperates in sectors that are very important to the Cuban economy.

Nevertheless, Cuban authorities have been forced to implement a number of restrictive measures under the so-called "special peace-time period," which began in mid-1990 and has affected printing schedules for newspapers, basic products, oil and its by-products.

The need for these measures has been attributed to the difficulties in receiving supplies from the USSR due to its domestic problems and to the collapse of "the socialist block's common market" with which the island held almost 80 percent of its commerce.

Namibia's Nujoma Continues Official State Visit

Tours Pan-American Facilities

FL0403175591 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] This afternoon Sam Nujoma, president of the SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] and chief of state of the Republic of Namibia, toured the eastern Havana sports complex which is being built for the Havana '91 Pan-American Games. Nujoma and the high-level delegation he is heading were accompanied by Jose Ramon Fernandez, chairman of the Pan-American Games organizing committee.

The distinguished guest received a detailed briefing of the projects from architect Rafael Almeida, chief of the installations under construction. The tour included the courts and swimming pool complexes, the velodrome, the Pan-American villa, and the olympic stadium. It was precisely at the olympic stadium, where the game's inauguration and closing ceremonies and the track and field events and soccer games will take place, that Nujoma made remarks to our reporter Julia Osendi.

[Begin recording] [Nujoma in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] I am very much impressed with this Pan-American Games villa which, I must say, is a city by itself, and I also pay special tribute to the workers who in a very short time have been able to complete this huge complex.

[Osendi] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Visits Isle of Youth

FL0403185991 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1725 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Namibian President Sam Nujoma arrived today on Isle of Youth, where he will meet with leaders of the People's Government and the Communist Party. He will visit sites of historic and economic interest and will talk with Namibian scholarship students in this territory. Upon his arrival in Nueva Gerona, Nujoma toured the streets which were filled with supporters who gathered to welcome him and express Cuba's solidarity with the Namibian people. Sam Nujoma's visit, which began last Friday, will conclude on the sixth [of March].

Conducts Tour With Castro

FL0503015591 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the president of the Councils of State and Ministers, accompanied Namibian President Sam Nujoma during a visit to the Blas Roca Contingent this afternoon.

[Begin recording] [Castro] Now, when the problems began, and we decided to move into the special period progressively, we gave the highways a lower priority. They were important projects, communications, but since we saw we had less fuel, less transportation, we decided to move... [rephrases] not to stop these projects completely, [words indistinct] not to completely halt the projects we had been doing with the railways to reach certain parts, but we did decide to move the bulk of the labor force to the food program.

[Nujoma in English with simultaneous translation into Spanish] The province of Havana is able to produce enough vegetables to feed the city of Havana without the need for other provinces having to provide a supply?

[Castro] We have 38,000 hectares, of which 22,000 belong to the state, 8,000 are the small farmers', and 8,000 are the cooperatives'. Now we are going to add 4,000 more hectares from the sugarcane fields, and the state will have 24,000, the cooperatives will have around 9,000 hectares, and the small farmers will have 9,000. We are coordinating the programs between the three types of ownership, and there are 42,000 hectares in all to feed 2.7 million people. There will be 154 square meters per capita. This province can supply sugar to the entire country and supply milk to the entire population—milk, yogurt, and all those things—but it also produces chicken, poultry, eggs, chicken, and pork.

[Nujoma] Very impressive.

[Castro] Do you have any other questions?

[Nujoma] Well, I am very much impressed by your fishfarming in the reservoirs, because this can provide an additional source of protein for the populace.

[Castro] This year we have produced 22,000 tons, in 1990. In 1992, we intend to get about 40,000 tons of freshwater fish. In the future, in the entire country, we intend to exceed 100,000 tons. So we will have about 180,000 hectares of lakes and ponds, with almost everything that has been done for agriculture. [end recording]

Castro Visits Guira de Melena Vegetable Farm

FL0403212091 Havana Radio Rebel Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] For the fifth time, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has visited areas of a vegetable enterprise in Guira de Melena, Havana Province, to hear about the progress of the food program. The top leader of the revolution was accompanied on his tour by (Manuel Cabane Godoy), first party secretary in the municipality. They went to the enterprise's special garden, where Fidel expressed interest in growing plantains with the microjet irrigation system and praised the place for its organization and cleanness.

Fidel went to a field of potatoes that had been planted 90 days ago; thus it would not be advantageous to mobilize the labor force to weed it, since the potatoes would soon be harvested. After checking the present state of potato cultivation, Fidel visited the Julio Antonio Mella Camp for people mobilized from the Ministry of Construction, where he spoke with the workers.

Comparison of Castro Speech to PCC Assembly

PA0303003191

Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish at 0129 GMT on 1 March carries a version of the speech given by President Fidel Castro at the Havana City Communist Party of Cuba Assembly in Havana on 24 February. The Havana Cubavision Television Spanish version has been compared to the Havana Radio Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks version published in the 1 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, beginning on page 4, revealing the following variations:

Page 8, column one, fourth full paragraph, first sentence reads: That is why I say that I do devote with great pleasure the time I have to these programs, because they are more important. (clarifying passage)

Same page, column two, fourth full paragraph, last two sentences read: Nothing. What could we try to buy if there is no awareness, no patriotism, no ideas? (clearing indistinct word)

Page 9, column two, second full paragraph, last two sentences read: The fact that they used to make four cubic meters of concrete and four cubic feet of wood, and that they now make 90, shows, as do the numerous examples presented here, what we can save and what was wasted. (clarifying passage)

Page 14, column two, last paragraph, sentence seven reads: It should be organized so that it will be economical, but the goal cannot be simply to make money and plant just one kind of crop. (changing wording)

* Food Program: Distribution Problems Discussed

* Streamlining Sought

91P40168A

[Editorial Report] An article in the 19 January 1991 issue of the Spanish-language newspaper GRANMA reports that the distribution of agricultural goods has improved in recent weeks. The article includes an interview with Rodolfo Cruz, director of the National Collection Union [Union Nacional de Acopio (UNA)], who says that nationwide distribution of tubers, vegetables, fruits, and grains has improved by 23 percent over what it was last year at this time; distribution in Havana showed a 50-percent improvement. However, there have been delays in the delivery of agricultural products to the capitals of Pinar del Rio, Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, Sancti Spiritus and Camaguey provinces.

The UNA estimates that for the first quarter of the year there will be a 14-percent improvement in distribution compared with the figure for this period last year. Cruz

says the UNA has 3000 trucks at its disposal but this fleet will be insufficient to handle distribution during the peak months of March and April. Forty-two percent of these vehicles are more than 12 years old and, for this reason, care and maintenance vehicles is very important. Collection points have been organized to reduce the amount of driving needed to collect products from the farmers. The trucks cannot go from house to house, says Cruz. There are currently 1,000 collection points in operation but this number needs to be increased to 1,500. This would increase the yield obtained from this fleet by 20-25 percent.

He notes that rapid unloading would help a great deal. Previously, trucks waited more that 24 hours in Havana. This period has now been reduced to about 7 hours—comparable to having an additional 100 trucks—but there are still instances where drivers wait for 14 or 15 hours. An effort has been made to speed the pace of unloading at the principle sites but the proper conditions do not always exist; this will change once the agricultural distribution centers are in operation. At that time, says Cruz, they will try to arrange it so that each driver knows which distribution center he is heading for at the time he departs.

Cruz says they would prefer that internal distribution within municipalities be done exclusively by means of draft animals. They expect to use 2600 carts.

According to Cruz, the heaviest work load is anticipated during the second quarter of the year because the bulk of the products will be harvested at this time. The goal is that not more than 24 hours pass should between the time the produce is collected and the time it appears at the market.

* Possible Container Shortage

91p40168B Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 20 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] The shortage of crates used for packaging and distributing agricultural products could affect the anticipated high levels of delivery to the population, especially at the peak of the January-April harvest. However, CEATM [State Committee for Material and Technical Supply]—supplier of the wood for making the crates—is confident that with the well-paced rotation of existing containers among recipients, and given the current level of manufacture there will be nothing to fear.

Guillermo Perez, deputy director of the National Collection Union (UNA), has an understandable concern: failure by MINIL [Ministry of Light Industry] to meet the production goal for crates would affect the shipment of fresh vegetables since the current program is already experiencing delays both within the organization and in the forestry sector of agriculture.

He is one of those who is confident that all of the measures which have been underway since last year are beginning to bear fruit this very month, especially in Havana, the country's largest agricultural producer. Based on his own calculations he says the UNA needs 5,519,000 wooden crates in order to ship all of the produce to the commercial units—small markets, stores, agricultural markets, and social institutions—and has only 52.8 percent of this container capacity.

The collection of agricultural produce has not been affected so far, but the delivery of crates for some of these products continues to be below the agreed upon levels.

We will deliver wood for the production of crates, as long as they are being filled. Our strategy is to strike a balance between what agriculture is going to produce in each period and the number of containers (assuming that each crate is rotated 2.5 times per month between the countryside and the commercial sector). Only then will we fill the deficit with new containers.

The words of Celestino Iglesias, director in charge of containers at the CEATM, have an assuring ring when he says that the food program will not come to a halt for lack of crates.

In December the raw materials necessary to meet this month's target and bolster production levels were assigned. We are aware that there is a shortage of containers, but agriculture has to make better use of those resources and create all of the mechanisms which will facilitate their conservation.

There is much instability with regard to collection of the empty containers used by the commercial centers; in any agricultural enterprise or production cooperative there are crates which are not being used. Measures are being adopted so that the UNA alone will be responsible for the ownership and transfer of the containers.

Despite these arguments, Iglesias is certain of the ability of the factories in the light industry sector to respond when the agricultural boom occurs.

We still have time to make up for the shortfall in crates. If the industry had the required wood, all factories would be operating at maximum capacity and by March we could arrive at or approach our goal which was based on the harvest estimates made by the agricultural sector, says Domingo Coro, director for production control at MINIL.

Operating at full capacity, the factories can produce 330,000 units per month. The goal for the first quarter is a total of 606,000 crates. During the first days of January it proceeded at a good pace, but the amount of wood necessary for the entire volume has not been assigned.

Domingo is among those who are concerned about the possible effect of the shortage of crates on the ability to supply agricultural produce, since he does not have the figures for the harvest which has just begun.

On the other hand, 32 percent of the anticipated level of plastic container production was achieved in 1990 due to

the shortage of high-density polyethylene which is imported. There were additional delays due to the breakdown of the machines which form the containers.

According to CEATM officials, foresters should assume the entire responsibility for production of wooden crates because this would represent a notable savings for the country; it would entail working with domestically produced wood of lesser quality, taking into consideration the unsophisticated technology. At MINIL, on the other hand, only top-quality raw materials can be used.

A small number of wooded crates are produced in the factories of the forestry sector of agriculture. However, Aguedo Morales, deputy minister of agriculture for the forestry sector, acknowledges that if the CEATM authorized us to use the wood which we cut, we would be able to produce all the crates.

The debate continues, although no one is sitting idly waiting for a solution. The UNA has implemented strict measures to control containers. The empty ones should be returned to the countryside within 48 hours in order to speed the pace of rotation. There is a [UNA] program designed to manufacture crates using its own means; the figure is approaching 24,000 at this stage. Each UNA enterprise in the provinces should maintain its own supply and find local solutions to replacing crates which are lost or broken.

Based on the experience with plastic boxes used for beer and other beverages, users will begin assuming material responsibility for lost, broken or misplaced containers, by adding on to the price of each unit.

CEATM is hopeful and promises it will act with the necessary flexibility to avoid gaps. The manufacturer—MINIL—will use its factories at low capacity—in shifts—but says it is ready to leap into action when asked.

The most conservative estimates guarantee very large harvests in this first stage of the food program. It remains to be seen whether there will be sufficient containers to allow the harvested produce to arrive at its destinations.

Grenada

Printing Delays Bishop Murder Appeal Verdict

FL0503005591 Bridgetown CANA in English 2015 GMT 4 March 91

[Richard Simon report]

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, March 4, CANA—The Grenada Court of Appeal on Monday hinted it had reached a verdict in the Maurice Bishop murder appeal case, but said delivery was being held up by the printing of the 9,000-page judgement which, for security reasons, had to be done outside of Grenada.

"If we were to get it printed in Grenada, everyone would know what the judgement is before we read it," president Sir Frederick Smith told a sitting of the appeal court. "Confidentiality of the court needs to be upheld...."

Sir Frederick, an eminent Barbadian jurist, took offence with press reports suggesting delivery of the verdict was being delayed because the three appeal court judges were asking for more money.

"I hate and detest these insinuations that we are holding the government to ransom...there is no question of blackmail in this case," he said. Sir Frederick, describing the case as "unique" in the British Commonwealth, said the court had its reputation to protect and had no intention of rushing unprepared to deliver a verdict.

"We want to give as much thought as possible to the 596 cases cited and 37 grounds of appeal so that when we make a decision, it is a considered and learned one," he said.

In the case which began in May 1988, 14 former government and military officials in the deposed People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), including deputy prime minister Bernard Coard, are appealing death sentences for the murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and several others in an October 1983 coup. Three others are appealing lengthy prison sentences.

The murders occurred at the height of in-fighting within the PRG, involving hardline and moderate factions, and marked the takeover of the government by the hardliners.

Sir Frederick did not say when delivery of the verdict was likely, noting it hadn't been decided where the judgement would be printed. But he commented: "We would like to see this thing over with as quickly as possible because we know Grenada wants to return to the OECS (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States) court system". Grenada withdrew from the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and established its own court after the Constitution was suspended by the PRG, which seized power in a 1979 coup.

Sir Frederick said the appeal court would also seek to conclude "as many of the (pending) criminal appeals as possible because we want very few arrears to be carried over to the OECS court."

When Grenada returns to the OECS court, the local court system will be abolished.

Haiti

Chamber Votes Aristide Six-Month Reform Limit

FL0403210391 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in French 1200 GMT 28 Feb 91

["Text" of bill approved by Parliament in Port-au-Prince on 27 February]

[Text] Bill: Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, Republic of Haiti.

Given Articles 60, 60.1, and 60.2 of the 1987 Constitution dealing with limits of power;
Given Article 111, 11.1 of the Constitution, dealing with attribute of the legislative power;
Given Articles 128 and 183.1 of the Constitution, dealing with interpretation of the laws;
Given Article 136 of the Constitution, dealing with the responsibilities of the president of the Republic toward the Constitution, the institutions, and the public powers;
Given Article 142 of the Constitution, conferring rights of nomination on the president of the Republic;
Given Article 160 of the Constitution, dealing with the mode of nomination and dismissal of state employees;
Given Articles 174, 175, and 207 of the Constitution, dealing with appointment of the judges and ombudsman;
Given Article 236.2 of the Constitution, dealing with nomination and dismissal of state employees;

Considering that Article 295 of the Constitution stipulates, and we are quoting, that:

Within six months, beginning with the installation of the first president elected under the influence of the Constitution of 1987, the political power is authorized to make all reforms found necessary, within the public administration in general, and within the magistracy, end of quotation.

Considering that the transient, and consequently ephemeral and cyclical, character of this article empowers the legislative chambers to make a constructive interpretation of this article;

Considering that the first president elected under the influence of the 1987 Constitution [Leslie F. Manigat] did not have time to make these reforms;

Considering that the intention of the members of the 1987 Constituent Assembly was to satisfy the people's claims in endowing the executive with the necessary legal means to undertake rational reforms for a better functioning of the public administration and the magistracy;

Considering that within this same context it is advisable to endow the executive with this legal instrument intended to allow him to make the necessary changes for the establishment of a state of order in Haiti, with respect for the Constitution and the laws;

We, members of the commission in charge of the conception and drafting of the interpretation of Article 295, propose to the honorable members of Assembly the following law:

Article 1. Within six months, beginning with the installation date of the president elected on 16 December 1990, the executive is authorized to make all reforms found necessary, in the public administration in general, and in the magistrature, while taking into accout the provisions of Articles 97, 141, 175, and 200.6 of the Constitution;

Article 2. In the autonomous territorial entities, these reforms will be made in cooperation with members of Parliament;

Article 3. This law will come into force as soon as it is promulgated and published.

That is the bill presented by Eddy Plancher, Ovide Roosevelt, Eugene Beaubrun, Saurel Hyacinthe, Patrick Norzeus, Frantz Robert Monday, and Charlot Leosthene.

Aristide Views War Cost, Foreign Aid Priorities

FL0403235291 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in French 1200 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Report on interview with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on 1 March; place not given—in Creole]

[Excerpt] It is because some international partners have not respected their promises that the electricity problem is not yet solved. This is what the president of the country, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, said in an exclusive interview with Radio Haiti today.

President Aristide also admitted that Electricity of Haiti [EDH] could financially solve this problem itself if it did not have a deficit of $17 million, due to the corrupted former administrations of thieves and plunderers. This challenge that we have today, the EDH problem, will teach us not to count solely upon the promises of foreign countries, on the one hand, and will activate the transformation the country seeks to make within this institution [EDH], on the other hand.

Furthermore, the president said that people who owe the state must pay the state. President Aristide spoke of friendly countries which have not respected their promises. There are, however, many of them, he said, which are willing to help and have proven so. He cited Venezuela as an example, which has already sent three Venezuelan technicians to participate in solving the electricity problem.

According to Aristide, we are at a crossroads that will allow us to see what democracy means to the others, when we remember that $1 billion was spent per day in the war to liberate Kuwait, while there is hesitancy [to help] a country which is trying to set its democracy in motion. [passage omitted]

Tortured Political Prisoners Sue General Avril

FL0403220491 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Excerpts] A group of Haitian citizens, victims of torture and arbitrary imprisonment under the government of

General Prosper Avril, have decided to bring the former Haitian military president before a U.S. court for compensation.

This group of citizens [includes]: Evans Paul [also known as K-Plim], mayor of Port-au-Prince, leader of the Confederation for Democratic Unity [KID], and spokesman for the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD]; Jean-Auguste Mesyeux, leader of Autonomous Central of the Haitian Workers [CATH]; Marino Etienne and Patrick Beauchard, leaders of the Popular Organization of 17 September [OP-17], an organization made up of former soldiers who participated in the 17 September 1988 coup-d'etat [which overthrew General Henry Namphy in favor of General Prosper Avril]; Serge Gilles, senator of the Republic, and leader of the National Revolutionary Party of Haiti [Panpra]; Gerard Emile Aby Brun, a member of the National Congress of Democratic Movements [Conacom]; and Gerard Laforest have decided to bring former General Prosper Avril to court in order to set a precedent in Haitian history that torture is over and that there is no more dictatorship on earth.

According to Mr. Johnny Maccala [as heard], the National Coalition of Haitian Refugees, and the Constitutional Law Center, two organizations having their headquarters in the United States, are in charge of the dossiers of complaints [lodged against Avril]. Constitutional Law Center representative, lawyer Jose Luis Morin, said that on 28 February the complaints were lodged against Prosper Avril before the Federal Court in Miami. [passage omitted].

The lawyer added that these proceedings can cost several thousand dollars, and that they have been instituted according to a law called Alien Thought Claims Act [preceding four words in English], a law that allows a non-U.S. citizen to institute legal proceedings against torturers who have harmed him in violation of international law, and who are living in the United States. [passage omitted]

According to plaintiff Evans Paul, all others, including military men and civilians who participated in torturing them, will be brought before the courts in Haiti. Any money paid to the plaintiffs as a result of the legal proceedings against General Avril will be put into the public fund for the good of the country. [passage omitted]

Johnny Maccala also announced that a news conference was held about these same proceedings yesterday in Miami.

Evans Paul, Jean-Auguste Mezyeux, Marino Etienne, and Patrick Beauchard were severely tortured under the military government of General Prosper Avril after they were arrested on November 1, 1989. Gerard Emile Brun, Serge Gilles, and Fernand Gerard Laforest were also tortured by military men on 20 January 1990 following the general's trip to China.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Opposition Expected To Name Shadow Cabinet

FL0403171291 Bridgetown CANA in English 1650 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, March 4, CANA—The Movement for National Unity (MNU), seeking to emerge as St. Vincent and the Grenadines' main opposition party, was expected to name a 12-member shadow cabinet Monday evening.

The MNU, led by attorney-at-law Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, is not represented in Parliament where Prime Minister James Mitchell's New Democratic Party (NDP) controls all 15 seats.

Creation of a shadow cabinet "signals to the nation that the MNU is preparing itself properly for governance", the party said.

The MNU has been expanding its membership base through a community campaign launched last October. It gained just two per cent of total votes cast in the last general elections held in 1989.

Trinidad and Tobago

Processing of Venezuelan Crude Set To Begin

FL0403170591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1603 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 4, CANA—The state-owned Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company (Trintoc) will begin daily processing of 30,000 barrels of Venezuelan crude from this week, the company said.

The arrangement arose out of talks a year ago between Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez on energy cooperation between the two countries. Following the talks, two processing agreements were signed between Trintoc and the Maraven Oil Company of Venezuela.

Trintoc spokesman Gregory Ballantine told CANA the agreement was "mutually attractive" to both companies. He said since Venezuela does not have a lubricating oil processing plant, it was agreed that Trintoc would process Venezuelan Lago Cinco crude into lubricating oil. "Apart from getting a processing fee, Trintoc will benefit from the agreement because our lube oil processing plant which has been inactive for the past six years, will now be in operation again," said Ballantine.

Last September, Trintoc started daily processing of 40,000 barrels of another variety of Venezuelan crude—Lago Treco.

El Salvador

Cristiani Sees FMLN Truce as 'Positive Signal'

PA0403222891 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani has described the three-day military truce announced by the guerrillas due to the 10 March elections as a change or perhaps a positive signal. The Salvadoran president expressed the hope that this decision by the insurgents will also be established at the negotiating table.

[Cristiani] "I believe that the truce is a positive change from their actions in past elections. I hope that this attitude is truly demonstrative of a desire on their part to join our country's democratic process.

[Reporter] "Do you think this will gradually [word indistinct] the peace process? Is it important that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] refrains from sabotage as it has announced?

[Cristiani] "I believe that it will be preferable for the process if there are no acts of violence over the course of the following few days, especially on election day, as there have been in the past. I believe that this could definitely be a positive signal that we are, perhaps, increasingly closer to a successful peace process. I hope this is why they have stated that they will allow the elections to be carried out under conditions of normalcy."

Comparing the proselytizing campaigns of past years, Cristiani said that this year's was good, adding that he hopes that the nine political parties in contention will maintain their political discretion.

[Cristiani] "In general terms and comparatively speaking, I personally feel that the level of confrontation among the political parties has not been very high, especially compared to the election processes in 1984 and 1985. All in all, I believe that the campaign has gone relatively well in that respect. All that I can say now is that little time is left and we must remain on a level at which the political groups can continue to demonstrate their civic pride and democratic fervor by maintaining their discretion."

Cristiani uttered these remarks following funeral services for Guillermo Manuel Ungo, secretary general of the National Revolutionary Movement, whom Cristiani described as a believer in democracy. The president also said that it was only logical to deny entry into El Salvador to FMLN leaders who had planned to attend Ungo's funeral services today.

[Cristiani] "Although I did not know him very well, I believe that lately—since his permanent return to the country—Dr. Ungo had come to strongly believe in democracy. He wanted to make a personal contribution toward helping El Salvador consolidate its democratic processes. Of late Guillermo was even involved in constructive talks concerning peace process, and I took note of that. He was eager for the country to have peace and a consolidation of democracy.

[Reporter] "Mr. President, [words indistinct] if (?members of the FMLN) could come to the country, [words indistinct] the government to allow them entry. (?What is the true situation)?

[Cristiani] "I believe it is a logical situation. The government cannot allow these people to enter the country for obvious reasons, at least not at this point in the peace process."

Doctor Ungo's funeral was officiated over by Auxiliary Metropolitan Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez, and along with the Ungo family it was attended by the Salvadoran president; the foreign minister; members of the diplomatic corps accredited in the country; leaders from the Christian Democratic Party, Democratic Convergence, and National Democratic Union; and representatives from labor and popular sectors.

The funeral was held this morning at the Sacred Heart Basilica.

Truce Termed 'Propaganda Ploy'

PA0403150591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2032 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Mar (NOTIMEX)—General Rene Ponce, the Salvadoran defense minister, has described the three-day unilateral truce decreed by the guerrillas for the 10 March elections as a "propoganda ploy."

In statements for a local radio station, the military leader ruled out that the army might also decree a temporary suspension of hostilities and assured that the military institution is capable of guaranteeing the elections.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) announced yesterday its decision to not hinder the elections, but pointed out, however, that it will not allow elections to take place in areas that it considers to be under its control.

After pointing out that "there are no areas under FMLN control" in El Salvador, Ponce said that the announced guerrilla truce is aimed at "influencing public opinion."

"As an institution, we cannot believe in such truces," Ponce said. He added that "regardless of what the FMLN does or does not do, we will provide security during the elections."

In nine days about 2.5 million Salvadorans will cast their votes for a pool of candidates from nine political parties to elect 84 deputies and 262 municipal councils.

Ponce accused the FMLN of carrying out "provocative actions" to force the Cristiani administration to

abandon the peace negotiations that are taking place under the auspices of the United Nations.

Among such actions, the minister mentioned an incursion by guerrilla columns into an exclusive residential neighborhood in this capital, where fierce clashes took place during the evening of 26 February and the dawn of 27 February.

He added that the army will guard voting tables, but, in order "to prevent any kind of disturbance," soldiers will be posted at a distance.

Ponce said finally that the soldiers who cast their votes will do so "as regular citizens" and will not be representing the Armed Forces.

Defense Minister on Plan To Guarantee Elections

PA0503042891 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0101 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] San Salvador, 4 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Salvadoran Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce announced today that the Army has initiated a military plan intended to guarantee the 10 March elections throughout the country.

In statements to newsmen during the funeral services of Lieutenant Colonel Mauricio Chavez Caceres, who was director of the Armed Forces Press Committee, Ponce said that the Armed Forces "are setting a plan in motion to guarantee the elections nationwide." However, the military officer added that "there are problems" in "certain zones" of four of the 14 departments in El Salvador, which is why polling places were not installed.

Over the past few days, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) has announced that it will call a cease-fire during the elections, but reserved the right to prevent voting in those areas that it considers to be under its control.

Ponce questioned the FMLN decision to cease its offensive actions on 9, 10, and 11 March which, according to him, was adopted in the wake of "international pressure and as a goodwill gesture toward the opposition political parties."

The military commander mentioned areas where there will be no polls, including regions in the departments of Chalatenango, Morazan, San Miguel, and Usulutan, although the Central Electoral Council will determine the location of the polling places.

A total of 84 deputies and 262 municipal councilmen will be elected in the 10 March elections. The political left represented by the Democratic Convergence, a coalition of three parties, and the Nationalist Democratic Union (UDN) will participate in the elections.

More than 2.5 million Salvadorans will cast their votes at approximately 6,000 polling tables under the supervision of 200 international observers, members of the Organization of American States (OAS), and other independent international organizations.

University Poll Shows Arena Losing Elections

PA0403192691 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Mar 91

[All figures as heard]

[Text] According to a poll conducted by the Lutheran University revealed today, Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] will lose its majority in the Legislative Assembly and will suffer a stunning defeat in municipal councils in the upcoming elections.

According to the Lutheran University's research department, the poll was conducted in departmental capitals throughout the country on 9, 10, and 11 February. The poll was conducted in public places like parks and markets. Strict care was taken to protect the identity of the people polled. [Words indistinct] 590 people were polled.

The Arena party was the apparent winner when people were asked for which party will you vote? Reality, however, was different. Possibly the political force is now [words indistinct] less than 11 percent of the people who say they will vote, and there will possibly be a new corelation of forces and Arena will lose its control and leadership in the Assembly.

The people were also aksed if they will vote in the March elections. Their answers eliminated the notion of a large degree of absenteeism. The theory of large absenteeism in the March elections is discarded. Less than 14 percent say they will not vote. There are 68 percent who say they will vote, added to those who say they did not know, which is about 16 percent, we can see that there will be a large turnout of voters.

The third question was, "Do you agree with the way in which Arena has run the country?" Forty-seven percent said no; 27 percent said yes, while 26 percent said that the situation has worsened, and 16 percent said that the situation has improved.

FMLN Reportedly Threatens Mayoral Candidates

PA0403235991 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 28 Feb 91 p 1

[Text] San Miguel, 28 Feb—Mayoral candidates and Municipal Council Members in San Miguel and in towns north of Morazan yesterday reported to the OAS and Departmental Electoral Boards that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has issued the following threat: Relinquish your candidacy "or else."

Relatives of threatened candidates and officials said that some mayoral candidates, and Municipal Council members of Sociedad and Corinto in Morazan, have caved in

to the threats. Those who resigned said that the People's Revolutionary Army militants, most opposed to the elections, have told them to leave their places of residence in order to save themselves and their families.

The mayoral candidates and Municipal Council members in question are from Sesori, San Gerardo, Nuevo Eden de San Juan, San Luis de la Reina, and Carolina in San Miguel and San Isidro, San Simon, Gualococti, Osicala, Lolotiquillo, Cacaopera, Corinto, Sociedad, and other towns in Morazan. The OAS representatives, who have an office in San Miguel, and members of the Departmental Electoral Boards have already begun discussing safety arrangements with the Armed Forces. Likewise, they indicated that, because of the seriousness of the threats against the candidates, the affair will be reported to the country's highest authorities.

In addition, eight passengers on a Chapeltique-bound bus were badly injured yesterday afternoon by a fragmentation grenade that was accidentaly dropped by a 3d Infantry Brigade soldier during a routine inspection. It was reported that the soldier dropped the grenade approximately two meters from the vehicle. The wounded were taken to a regional hospital.

A person claiming to speak for the Rigoberto Soto Urban Command of the Chico Sanchez Southeastern Front, telephoned Radio Chaparrastique claiming that military actions such as the recent attack on the Escalon and Acajutla, "will continue throughout the country to pressure the government into abandoning its intransigence in the talks."

The caller, who also claimed to speak on behalf of the FMLN command, said that "military activity will be accompanied by sabotage of the yankee economic structure and of U.S. aid to the Salvadoran Armed Forces."

Correction to FMLN Communique on Truce

PA0403145291

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Communique on Truce," published in the 4 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 14:

Make sourceline read: Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1340 GMT 1 Mar 91 (correcting name of station)

Make subslug read: ["Text" of "official" Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, General Command Command communique issued in El Salvador on 28 February—read by announcer] (adding additional information)

Guatemala

Country Not Listed as Human Rights Violator

PA0503024291 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 26 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] At the 47th Assembly of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Guatemala received 21 votes in favor, 16 against, and five abstentions, thereby remaining one of the countries listed under Category 21 of the "Human Rights Issues Advisory Service." As a result of this vote, Guatemala avoided being included under Category 12, which identifies the nations that violate human rights.

During this assembly, the Guatemalan issue polarized a majority of the Latin American nations from the industrialized nations, which generate the large bulk of financial aid to the Third World.

The countries that voted—at the level of expert advisers on human rights issues—in favor of Guatemala remaining listed under Category 21 are: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, Burundi, China, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Madagascar, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, Swaziland, and Yugoslavia.

The countries that voted for a UN Human Rights rapporteur to be appointed for Guatemala are: the United States, Japan, Canada, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Austria, Portugal, Australia, Zambia, Czechoslovakia, Panama, the Ukraine, and Hungary. The Soviet Union, Cuba, Cyprus, Ethiopia, and Ghana abstained from voting.

Category 21 of the UN Human Rights Commission includes those nations that have problems with regard to human rights, but the governments of which are making efforts to implement coherent policies to uphold these rights.

President Jorge Serrano Elias appeared pleased last night "because the outcome of the vote did not condemn Guatemala, as was expected by some sectors."

"We have been advised that our nation is considered a country that needs assistance in this field and we believe that our judicial system has to be strengthened," the president said. Serrano added: "My government pledges to those nations that gave us their support and backing to take on the moral responsibility, before the Guatemalan people, and before all the nations of the world, that human rights will never again be violated in this country."

Colonel Homero Garcia, head of the Information and Press Department of the Army, has said: "Guatemala received the treatment it was looking for; it was not condemned by the 47th Assembly of the UN Human Rights Commission."

With regard to the UN Human Rights Commission resolution, Col. Garcia said: "State institutions must be

happy and willing to work to improve Guatemala's image in the area of human rights."

Guatemalan Archbishop Msgr. Penados del Barrio said: "The fact that Guatemala was not condemned by the UN Human Rights Commission meeting being held in Geneva is a good sign. This means that the situation is not as bad as has been said. Besides, this can be construed as an opportunity for President Jorge Serrano's government to take steps in this field—under the watchful eyes of the international community.

"Of course, in Guatemala, the kidnappings, the illegal executions, the violent actions, and other activities that reflect a disregard for human rights, continue. This can be clearly read in Christian Tomuschat's report on human rights in Guatemala. Nevertheless, the vote issued in Geneva could possibly take into account the fact that President Serrano is not responsible for acts committed prior to his administration," the archbishop added.

Mutual Support Group [GAM] representative Blanca de Hernandez said: "As relatives of the detained and missing persons, we deeply regret that a UN rapporteur was not appointed, because we believe that the situation here in Guatemala has not changed."

"It is not true that GAM requested that Guatemala's new government be condemned, but we believe that with the appointment of a UN rapporteur, democracy could be firmly established here and the kidnappings and illegal executions ended," Blanca de Hernandez said. She added, that President Serrano had requested that his administration be given "the benefit of the doubt; let us hope that this is not another mistake as with Vinicio Cerezo."

"How interesting I found the Soviet and Cuban abstentions," said former Guatemalan Vice President Francisco Villagran Kramer, in whose opinion "the vote proves that Third World countries hold a different view than do the developed nations."

"It is a positive resolution because it strengthens expert adviser Professor Tomuschat's field of action and because it does not condemn or acquit a country in Guatemala's situation. Third World countries, however, expressed concerns about persistent human rights violations and the weakness of civil power in responding to the military," Villagran Kramer said.

He said, moreover, that the vote reflects a clear division between the highly developed countries and the Third World, with the abstention of long-standing socialist states such as the USSR and Cuba. "The issue for the Guatemalan Government and for the opposition parties is that in Geneva our problems are seen more clearly than within the country itself," Villagran Kramer continued.

"Those of us who are in Guatemala cannot see the forest for the trees; the tension under which we live has prevented civilians and the military from holding calm discussions to find common ground among the people who at all costs want order and security with freedom and social justice. In conclusion, therefore, the Human Rights Commission's vote means that the new government has received the benefit of the doubt," Villagran Kramer said.

"Victor Suarez, president of the Coordinating Committee of Farming, Commercial, Industrial, and Financial Associations, said: "I am pleased to see that the UN Human Rights commission did not approve the motion to name a rapporteur, because in addition to international repercussions, such a decision would have had a negative effect on Guatemalan producers, as happened during the 1982-1986 period. Suarez said that, at that time, the productive sector had a difficult time selling its grain, and local investors suffered heavy losses due to the blockades that were imposed.

"I believe that the current government does not deserve to be judged by actions perpetrated by Cerezo, who failed to support the judicial branch so that justice could prevail," he concluded.

Men Open Fire at Canadian Embassy; No Casualties

PA0203002591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2315 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Mar (NOTIMEX)—The National Police reported today that the Canadian Embassy in Guatemala was the target of an attack on 28 February when two men in a vehicle opened fire on the diplomatic mission.

According to the police report, Canadian Consul Donald McGillvay asked the local authorities to take precautionary measures against any possible new attacks.

The report by embassy security guard Pedro Ramos Guevara stated that at approximately at 1115 (1715 GMT) yesterday, two men in a white BMW slowed down in front of the embassy and fired several rounds at it.

Ramos said in his report that the attack occurred very quickly, and he did not have time to return the fire or to write down the car's license plate number.

The bullets hit the wall of the diplomatic residence without causing any casualties. The property damage was slight.

It has been unofficially reported that the Canadian diplomats have yet to issue a statement and that members of a special police detachment are investigating the incident.

During the 42d meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Canada was one of the countries that voted in favor of condemning Guatemala for its human rights record and for the appointment of a UN rapporteur for Guatemala.

Canada has been very active in the defense of the human rights in the region.

Journalist Released From Jail, Charges Dropped

PA0203015491 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 26 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] The 4th Criminal Arraignment Court released columnist Hugo Arce yesterday, under the judge's supervision, because the evidence against him was not enough to keep him jailed. Arce appeared in court at 1115, learned of his release and promised to report to court when instructed by the judge.

His defense lawyer, Arnoldo Lopez Straub, has said during an interview that on Friday, 22 February, he filed a motion to revoke the arrest order because the investigation proved that dynamite sticks could not fit under the seats of Arce's car. Commenting on the ruling, Lopez Straub said that in recent years, ever since Dr. Edmundo Vasquez Martinez took office as chief of the Supreme Court, the credibility of the courts has increased because of the independence of the government branch.

In congratulating the staff that handled the case, Lopez Straub mentioned the official who had health problems during the week but refused to seek treatment so as not to interrupt the case. "I think justice was done because all the evidence presented against my client was proven to be false, making the arrest unjustified," the lawyer indicated.

When asked about the possibility of filing a suit against the arresting officers who said they found the dynamite in his car, Arce replied: "Of course I will, because the people responsible for this must be punished." He added that the policemen certainly lied, therefore, they will be sued.

Arce explained to newsmen that on 23 February, three agents, presumably from the judicial police, entered the jail of zone 18 without authorization in order to watch him for the night. "My fellow inmates supported and guarded me so that nothing happened to me," he noted.

He added that he will ask for the dismissal of national police director Colonel Enrique Paiz Bolanos because he supported the lies. "Besides asking for his dismissal, I will sue him and all those people involved in the moral attack againt me," he stated. "My being released proved that they lied, and so now we must find those responsible for this," he noted.

During an interview held in his home, Arce thanked newsmen for their help and support, and added that his release is not a victory for him but for all Guatemala. "I feel heartened to return with greater courage and strength because I know I can withstand being in jail without going back on what I have always said."

"Tomorrow I will formally press charges and will not stop until those responsible for this crime are punished," he stressed. Arce concluded by saying that he would not request protection from the state because that would be like calling on the "Keystone Cops."

Nicaragua

FSLN Issues Communique on Economic Situation

PA0503041991 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 4 Mar 91 pp 1, 5

[Communique issued by the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) in Managua on 2 March]

[Text] To the people of Nicaragua, Nicaraguan brothers:

The social-economic situation is deteriorating dramatically and it is affecting workers in the city and countryside who are suffering from unemployment and the rising costs of food and basic services.

State, health, and education workers are also victims of revanchist policies that hinder their right to employment in accordance with their years of service, technical and professional qualifications.

Production in the countryside and in the city has been affected by a lack of credits and the restitution of farms and factories to Somozists and capitalists.

Added to this situation are the tensions caused by extremist UNO [National Opposition Union] groups which—spurred on by deputies, mayors, and Government Ministry delegates characterized by their Somozist and landowning backgrounds—attack peasants and rob them of the lands given to them individually or in cooperatives by the Agrarian Reform during the Sandinist government, thereby raising the number of people killed or wounded on a daily basis due to these criminal actions.

In the cities, factories are closed due to a lack of financing, and thousands of workers are left jobless. Efforts are also made to snatch homes or lots from thousands of families who received these benefits from the revolution.

The agreements that were signed on 26 October 1990 between the government, workers, and producers are being violated by government officials whose attitudes are affecting the country's stability.

There is a need for foreign credits, and those available are conditioned to the implementation of economic adjustments recommended by the IMF which call for additional sacrifices by workers and producers.

In view of the seriousness of the situation, the FSLN National Directorate believes that:

1. The government must participate in a dialogue with the signatories of the 26 October 1990 accord in order to ensure its strict compliance.

2. The government must control the wave of violence and insecurity affecting peasants as a result of the criminal actions carried out by UNO extremists.

3. The government must stop the policy that threatens to evict thousands of Nicaraguan families from houses, settlements, and agrarian properties.

4. The government must begin a direct dialogue with the various sectors that are currently on strike without resorting to violence, and it should try to find a just solution to the demands presented by the workers who are on strike.

5. In its negotiations with the IMF, the government must not commit itself to implementing adjustment policies that will further affect the workers' interests and which would only bring chaos and destabilization to the country. Economic adjustments are necessary, but they must reflect economic and social reality in order to reactivate and stabilize the economy, taking into consideration the interests of the great majorities.

The FSLN National Directorate is currently holding talks with representatives from the various sectors of the Nicaraguan society to contribute to finding a just solution to the crisis that today affects the Nicaraguan people.

For stability with justice,
[Signed] FSLN National Directorate
Free Fatherland or Death
[Dated] Managua, Free Nicaragua, 2 March 1991

Daniel Ortega on Government Economic Policy

PA0503022291 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Statement by Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) in Managua on 3 March—recorded]

[Text] This morning we met with a delegation of the Nicaraguan Government headed by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo. The FSLN National Directorate has expressed its views not only regarding the economic adjustment plan announced this afternoon, but also regarding situations related to the current tension in rural areas due to the forceful occupation of land previously delivered to cooperatives and peasants on an individual basis. That tension has resulted in daily acts of violence that have produced dead and wounded among the peasant population.

We also referred to the government's noncompliance with agreements through which parts of the population were given lots in various settlements in different cities, as well as others who were given houses delivered by the Sandinist government under our administration. Those affected are being threatened with eviction orders issued by some mayors and others are being ordered to return houses, lots, land in rural areas, and some industrial enterprises. We voiced our concern in the sense that this situation creates uncertainty among the Nicaraguan population, as thousands of families feel insecure because they feel that they can be evicted at any moment. These families feel that they could be stripped of their lots, houses, cooperatives, or of the plots of land in the countryside that were distributed among peasants.

Regarding these economic adjustments, I have very clearly stated that if such adjustments are to have a stablizing effect, they should take into consideration the interests of workers, the poorest sectors, the large Nicaraguan masses, and the producers and sellers. Very often, when measures such as these are adopted, they have a destabilizing effect rather than a stabilizing effect. In other words, their effect is contrary to that which was expected. I made this observation at the meeting with the government.

There can be no comparisons with the measures that we implemented during our government, because the situation was different. Although it is true that we did not have the (?eternal) resources that the current government has, the fact is that we implemented a very flexible policy that protected our farming products and basic grains, financed the industrial sector, and established subsidies in areas where they were essential.

The current government has its own responsibilities, ideas, thoughts, and economic logic. It is our duty to make the government see our points of view because, in this case, we are defending national interests, which is the same as defending the workers interests. The defense of national interests means we must think of the workers first. This does not mean the workers will become wealthier because no one ever said that the workers became wealthier in the past or must do so now. They have the right to work, however, and must be given jobs and salaries on which they can live in a decent manner.

This is what we aspired to during our government, and I believe that all economic policies and measures must point in that direction. They must protect jobs and salaries and guarantee financing for businesses so that they, in turn, can generate job stability and produce for the country.

Regarding the devaluation that has been announced and the salary adjustment proposal, we also stated our points of view and concerns. Since our position might be viewed as ideological, I must stress that its aim is to contribute to the country's stability and to point out to the government those things which, rather than stabilizing the country, could create a chaotic and explosive situation.

It is my belief at this time that the workers, laborers, peasants, merchants, and all employees in the formal, informal, and government sectors must judge the impact of the measures and decide whether they are playing a stabilizing or destabilizing role. We have already voiced our concerns. The declaration issued by the FSLN on 3 March very clearly states that the situation is explosive

and that the economic measures must take the workers' interests into consideration so that they can truly be factors of stabilization and not destabilization.

The foremost judges in this case are the working people. They are the ones who, by and large, will feel the measures' direct effects. The people must judge whether the measures are helping and protecting them or if—on the contrary—they are not contributing to the country's stabilization. It is our duty to take the people's opinions into consideration, keep in contact with the government, and work toward the country's stabilization. However, I repeat, national interests must come first, which is the same as putting the workers and large Nicaraguan masses' interests first. This is what I wanted to say after holding lengthy talks on the subject with the government and after making known the FSLN's position on these issues.

FNT Issues Communique on Economic Measures

PA0503024091 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Communique issued by the National Workers' Front (FNT) in Managua on 4 March; read by spokesperson Lily Soto—live or recorded]

[Text] The FNT rejects the economic shock measures announced by the government because they will entail a drastic reduction of the salaries and the standards of living of the population and the firing of over 60,000 productive workers. The FNT calls on all workers and the people in general to struggle for the following demands:

1. A 600-percent wage increase to offset the real impact of the devaluation.

2. Establishment of a minimum wage equal to 100 percent of the 53 products that form the basic market basket.

3. Labor stability; no more firings; compliance with collective bargaining agreements.

4. Revaluation of the capital of enterprises that have been taken over by the banks.

5. Financing production sectors to avoid general bankruptcy.

6. Legalizing enterprises to benefit workers.

7. Respecting the land of the peasants who have benefitted from agrarian reform and other laws.

8. Legalizing and providing ownership papers to the recipients of land and housing.

9. Begin an immediate program of public investments to fight the existing large unemployment rate.

For employment, salary, and social stability. Not one step backwards.

[Signed] FNT

* Rosario de Murillo Comments on FSLN Crisis

91CA0066B Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 24 Jan 91 p 4

[Commentary by Rosario de Murillo]

[Text] A few days ago in VENTANA we read the statements of a journalist who claimed that he did not know what it meant to be a Sandinist, what it meant to be anti-imperialist, and who or what imperialism or imperialists now are. This is not "a sort of" but rather a clear-cut identity crisis. The journalist clarified (and this is important) that he never could have been a Sandinist and is not one now. His obvious identity crisis therefore has nothing to do with Sandinism.

Statements by Sandinists who represent various sectors also appeared in the same issue. Not a single one did not know what it means to be a Sandinist or an anti-imperialist today. And anyone can verify this steadfast revolutionary identity just by talking with people. There is no identity crisis among the Sandinist masses. They realize very clearly "why the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] struggled and will keep on struggling alongside the people." The crisis that is besetting people is unmistakably an economic one.

Some days ago I went by a place that until recently was known as Casa Jose Roman Gonzalez (the name of a martyr). It currently houses the offices of a number of prominent Sandinists. There is a bright new sign on the wall. It is now called Edificio El Carmen. There is obviously a crisis there too; only, I cannot tell whether it is an identity or loyalty crisis, an existential spell, or simply a change that (like the Ninja Turtles) is part of modern life.

After the events of February, Sandinists have been reflecting in public, in private, and in small groups alike. The Sandinist people, the "rank and file" as some still say, have reflected and reacted, evolving from astonishment to self-blame, blame, criticism, and action. The "cadres" have carried out a military process, only in some cases with a tone and a direction that make the crisis of their own Sandinist identity increasingly obvious. But this is an individual identity crisis that no one is entitled to generalize.

The political searching, debate, and discussion that have gone on inside Sandinism over the past year have nothing to do with what they call an identity crisis. In psychology or sociology these situations are known as growth crises. Because we Sandinists remain Sandinists, and our current discussions stem from the need to find better mechanisms for lending continuity to the Revolution as an unwavering ethical movement that seeks social justice. Or the Kingdom of God on earth, as the Christians say. To speak of anything else can only stem from confusion, or be intentional.

The fact that for the first time in its history the FSLN is a legal, civilian opposition party in the legislature does not cause us to suffer existential anguish. In any event, this new experience is leading to searches and discussions that are also new, but once again the goal is mechanisms that will enable us to carry on an opposition that is consistent with our principles and with the defense of the constitution that the Revolution and the revolutionary people created in Nicaragua.

The FSLN has never been a vote-hungry political movement. It is true that we Sandinists are interested in returning to power, but at the moment this is not all-important. Because the Revolution has not lost its power. It surprises me to read that our political role must be defined "in terms of something very simple and very necessary: returning to power." As has become very clear, the Sandinist Revolution exists and bases its power on the development of the consciousness of the people who made and are defending it, even apart from formal political structures. The government is not power. A political party is not power either. The only true source of power is the people and, in a revolution, their revolutionary consciousness.

We are interested in returning to power, but above all we are interested in reaffirming our Sandinist Front as an instrument of the people in looking to the future. We are interested in reaffirming it on the basis of its past history of struggles, challenges, mistakes, and accomplishments, which cannot be denied but must instead serve as a foundation so that the future can be truly different, in an evolutionary sense.

Our party runs in elections, but we are not vote-hungry. We have a crisis, but one of growth, not identity. We want to return to power, but with an FSLN that helps to intensify the Revolution. As one can see, the issues that are being discussed are fundamental ones, and as is normal in these parts, because we are not Scandinavian, European, cold, phlegmatic, we do so with passion, excitement, and of course, inspiration, in addition to good sense. The factions within Sandinism are a reality. Ideological diversity within the FSLN cannot be denied. It can be seen daily in word and deed, from the mass media to the seats in the legislature.

It is true that with their struggles our people won the right to political pluralism in the broad sense and that this has been embodied as a principle in the Constitution of the Republic. But political pluralism as a social model is one thing, and the internal workings of a revolutionary movement are another, a movement that aspires to become a party in which ideological pluralism has no place but in which the diversity of thought that fuels and enriches political action does.

I do not think that anyone is seeking to monopolize the thinking of revolutionaries. We Nicaraguans are creative and, therefore, we contribute and criticize. What the people are demanding, in my opinion, is loyalty to the revolutionary identity, and the determined use of the Sandinists' intelligence and creativity to find the finest mechanisms, the "new paths" about which Daniel is talking and which to me mean increasing emphasis on contributions from so-called civilian society.

The various segments of the revolutionary people are the ones who must have priority in participating, proposing, criticizing, doing, without "imperatives" and without "Sacred Cows." We must acknowledge that often when we are in charge, we claim the power to think and decide for everyone. Although it is up to the FSLN to lead, it should do so only on the basis of the people's sentiments, needs, wisdom, and experiences. I do not believe in a cold party of just "capable cadres." I believe in a party deeply rooted in the people through organizations that assure full grassroots involvement and true representation and through real leadership, not commands or calculations that take into account only intellectual or academic capacity, as was often the case in the past.

To our people the Sandinist Front is neither the National Directorate, nor a group of legislators, nor its structures, nor a Sandinist Assembly, nor a heap of former officials or former ministers. To the people, the Sandinist Front is a projection of themselves. And our people at present know only crisis: the one that they are experiencing every day, hunger, firings, the lack of land, the return of factories to the capitalists, in short, the bourgeois government's economic and social policies, which have hurt the people. This is the crisis that the people want to tackle on a priority basis. Everything else is a minor issue for discussion. And although such discussion may be important and necessary, it will surely seem somewhat frivolous compared to the grave economic crisis and its impact on the daily lives of the masses. But this is not a trivial discussion. Or an unnecessary one. The aspects of our present and future political life that are being addressed are fundamental ones. And they must continue to be addressed, only this time by involving the truly important figures in this Revolution, the anonymous Sandinists who have no problem with their identity or their revolutionary values.

In conclusion, the attempt to wash one's hands or to cleanse oneself of "sins" by making confessions and revelations that implicate others (the classic "I did not do it...He did...hit him, he did it!) is unethical, in poor taste, and another sign of a shaky ideology.

* Murillo Suggests Changes in FSLN Mechanisms

91CA0069B Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 4 Feb 91 p 4

[Commentary by Rosario Murillo]

[Text] I think that we Nicaraguan revolutionaries are privileged, in the sense that history has enabled us to see from various perspectives (during the struggle against the dictatorship, in government, and now from the opposition in a revolutionary constitutional context) that true power does not arise from institutions or officialdom but rather from the moral capacity and

strength of the people. It has also enabled us to verify that the revolution, with a people who realize (as a given) their own competence and decision-making power, is irreversible. Of course what we must understand by revolution is everything that represents the evolution of consciousness, of individual and group action in the progress of popular struggles.

This evolution, both of consciousness and of individual and group action, clashes with and overtakes (it happened in the past and it is happening now) political and social structures if they are not in tune with this grassroots dynamic in constant movement, whether because they have fallen behind, are confused, or suffer from inertia.

I think that this ought to be one of the main items in our discussion of present and future revolutionary political action.

The world has evolved towards the increasingly aggressive presence of the conscious individual, who chooses to act on his own and, within different types of groups, to spur social and even political movements in accordance with his concerns, interests, and rights. Above and beyond the traditional organizational structures and forms there have emerged movements around specific interests (ethnic, class, trade union, shantytown residents, environmental, pacifist, the struggle to survive) that with their own energy are pushing their grievances and in many instances shattering the oversimplification, do-nothing'ism, bureaucracy, and lack of originality or democratic involvement that have been paralyzing traditional organizations.

Events in Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia, and all over the world have been demonstrating that people have the capacity to transcend, whether gradually or suddenly, forms of political or social action that do not satisfy them.

The ineffectiveness of systems has been accentuating the fundamental importance of what we now know as civilian society. Such a society, active, aggressive, with a sense of identity and potential, is the sole guarantee of democracy.

Nicaragua has not been and is not an exception. War prevented the Sandinist Front from concentrating on revising and adapting its political structures and its relations with the trade unions and the different social groupings. The fact that our struggle against foreign aggression was a priority caused us to neglect, as a people, the need to allow the internal workings of our social organizations to evolve.

So then, if there is anything that the FSLN needs to reconsider urgently, it is not its identity or its relationship with imperialism but rather the view that we Sandinists have of power. And not in theoretical or philosophical terms, not in abstract statements, but in practice. Power must be seen for what it really is in a revolution: the power of the people. And this can be guaranteed only through organizational forms that are always open to the creativity, concern, curiosity, inventiveness, growth, and development of each segment of the people, in accordance with its own characteristics.

In my judgment, one of the major challenges facing the Sandinist Front is to heed the grassroots outcry, demand, and uproar for participation, participation, and more participation.

And this means acknowledging the people's political and ideological development and capacity to act. It means respect for the will of the people in their particular forms of work and in the selection of their natural leaders. And it also means the thorough-going conviction that a Revolutionary Political Party can establish or confirm itself as a vanguard force as the millennium approaches only if it transforms its concept and exercise of power.

People who are aware will not continue to allow leaders, cadres, courses of action, formulas, and rigid lines to be imposed on them There is no rank and file Sandinist who does not demand with true pride and a sense of revolutionary identity his right to a voice in political decision-making. There is no revolutionary who does not aspire to exercise the participatory democracy that the Revolution proposes and that few of us have practiced, inasmuch as a handful of us always decided (because this is what we had learned, and we all know from where) how we had to think, speak, resolve, and even live on behalf of and for the rest.

The changes that the Sandinist rank and file will be promoting as the upcoming congress approaches are based above all, as they have stated in assemblies, meetings, and surveys, on a concern that their right to be combative on their own, above and beyond institutions, models, or individuals, be recognized, as well as their right to diversity of thought, to criticize, and to elect their leaders. All of this, of course, on the basis of a revolutionary, Sandinist identity, whose ethical principles of justice, solidarity, liberty, responsibility, and sovereignty (the famous public virtues) are, besides being unchangeable, fully accepted by all.

We live in a stormy world in which the rapidity of change shocks us. Therefore, the certainty of a solid ethical foundation that stirs us toward our common humanity is important.

If we all agree that the ethical values of Sandinism are inalterable, then it is urgent to begin discussing (among the majority, not just the same old few) the demand on us to evolve mechanisms that will foster the development of civilian society, to mobilize democracy, and thus to truly strengthen democracy.

If "this power is of the people and this power is Sandinist," then the autocratic, bureaucratic, smug, and arrogant forms of conceiving and exercising power, with which we are familiar and which we still practice, have no place.

But democracy and modernity are not benevolent smiles, a shower of balloons, or gringo-style election campaigns and political propaganda either. Democracy and modernity are simple, transparent things: they represent the recognition that the revolution has been and will remain the source of the people's power, in the sense of the evolution of the people's consciousness and capacity to act. Because the opposite would be the political and human denial of all.

The Sandinist Front is not going to split. But it could lose its currency as a political project unless it "modernizes" by rediscovering and developing the collective, not individualist or imposed, concept of power. Because to do anything else would be, as Rita says, "to keep on fooling ourselves." And when all is said and done, no one wants to do that!

* Commentary Views Principal FSLN Factions

91CA0069A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Jan 91 p 4

[Text] The evidence shows that the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] is divided into two main factions.

One of them is the so-called "principled" faction. They call themselves this because they feel that they are the ones who are truly adhering to "Sandinist revolutionary principles," understood to mean the fundamental tenets of Marxism-Leninism.

The arguments that the spokesmen of this self-styled "principled" faction advance are exceedingly odd. In particular, the former Sandinist first lady, who has taken on the role of the passionate ideologue of the Sandinist hard line, talks as if her party and family clan had never exercised government power.

Even though they grew scandalously rich while they were in power, particularly during the last few months of their term, they still speak on behalf of the humble workers, even on behalf of all the poor of the earth.

They claim to be the standard-bearers of the worker and campesino struggles for social well-being, as if they had not utterly impoverished Nicaragua's working classes by banning and then cracking down on any sort of protest by them.

The orthodox philosophy of the FSLN's principled faction is interesting. They speak of the revolution as something hypothetical and utopian, something altogether different from the traumatic process that they spearheaded for ten years.

The members of the principled faction also boast of being sectarian and intransigent; they are trying to ignore the realities confronting the revolutionary movement and ideology all over the world: discredit and bankruptcy.

The other Sandinist faction, that of the realists or pragmatists, gives the impression that it wants to focus intelligently on the new realities that prevail in Nicaragua and the world.

It is not clear whether the realist faction actually identifies with Social Democracy, which the so-called principled faction regards as the worst of political crimes.

Even before taking power, one sector of the FSLN (the "terceristas") established permanent ties with international Social Democracy, both at the party and governmental level.

It was never learned, however, whether the FSLN's contacts with Social Democracy were based on sincere sympathy for the principles of social justice with democracy and freedom or if they were just another tactic of pretense and political opportunism.

Most likely it was the latter. We need only recall the profession of communist faith by several Sandinist leaders who were described as "terceristas," or Bayardo Arce's definition of the Sandinist revolution as a sui generis dictatorship of the proletariat to "build socialism with the dollars of imperialism."

Social Democrats or not, the Sandinist faction of the realists or pragmatists seems to be convinced that a democratic transition in Nicaragua is inevitable and irreversible.

Some Sandinists who belong to this faction even assert that the current "bourgeois democratic" government is the legitimate child of the political institutions created by Sandinism. Therefore, they say, "it is a child that we do not like, but it is our child, and we must respect it."

There are people like Dr. Rafael Solis Cerda, who goes so far as to criticize bitterly the destabilizing tactics that the "principled" sectarians are pursuing and advocates loyal and respectful support for the government that the people freely elected after rejecting Sandinism.

It is difficult, of course, to put labels on the Sandinist factions and to establish clearly what distinguishes or defines one or the other. The debate is just beginning within the Sandinist ranks, and it is not yet altogether clear what lies behind the aggressive, sectarian meanspiritedness of the principled faction and the cautious approach of the realists or pragmatists.

But both factions seem to be convinced, as of now, that everything except the reunification of the party can be expected of their upcoming congress.

Indeed, the split within the FSLN is a foregone conclusion. The congress is merely going to make it official and decide which of the two factions will be the stronger. Or it could decide that instead of two there will be several parties arising from the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

Panama

Colonel Diaz Herrera Interviewed From Caracas

PA0403183091 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Telephone interview with Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera (Ret.) in Caracas by Mayin Correa on "The Word" show—live]

[Text] [Diaz Herrera] Good morning, Mayin. Am I on the air?

[Mayin] Yes, Roberto, you are on the air.

[Diaz Herrera] In the first place, I would like to state that on Friday, 1 March, I agreed to go to the Venezuelan [as heard] Embassy in Caracas. I agreed to meet the political counsellor. I wanted a political conversation with the United States about some topics in Panama that interest me. I wanted an open and frank conversation; however, there I met a special agent from the United States, Robert Harris of the immigration office. He was in this area, and he wanted to ask me things about Noriega, his era, and other things.

I even told them very clearly that I had the impression that they are having problems in the case agaisnt Noriega, because they have many Panamanian and U.S. prisoners and others; and it seems that, according to what I have been hearing from Washington, they are having problems in convicting him. It might be because they are using ex-convicts, prisoners and others. Besides, it seems that Noriega's defense has been very skillful. They say that there is not very much evidence to convict him.

They invited me, however, let us call it that. It was a Yankee-style invitation for me to come out against Noriega. I told them that I fought Noriega very fiercely. We risked our lives against him while he was still in power. I told them that I blame them, however. They were then still giving him awards. He still had people in the CIA, the State Department, and the Pentagon who supported him, knowing how shameless he was. They were part of the shamelessness, and I told them so. They did not know how to stop him. I asked them: Why do you not investigate the period between 1984 and 1988 regarding Noriega and drugs, because then you will surely have to investigate DEA agents? They just stared back at me, especially one particular DEA agent. It seemed to me that she was nodding assent, like saying: Yes it is true, we should investigate those things. I am saying this because I do not like to kick a man when he is down, although Noriega caused me and the people a lot of harm. He attacked us with all the means he could. He almost killed us. It is a miracle we are alive. I belive that now that he is behind bars, it is a U.S. problem. Furthermore, if I were to testify about anything that I saw or know, for instance the Spadafora case, that would be a Panamanian problem.

I am intersted in any thing that is anti-drug related, but they are not going to go to the court in Florida to discuss the Spadafora case no other crimes in Panama. I believe that is what the Panamanian Government should ask for. They let him go because of lack of legal grounds.

Besides all that, I would like to say this in this somewhat informal talk. They tell me that the United States does not have any criminal or federal charges on me. Of course, I alrady knew that, however, they are telling me this to see if I will testify in court or in front of a grand jury. I told them I would not like to play the role of a stool pigeon. They mentioned Blandon. It is strange that after he made so many statements, they tell me that they do not trust Blandon, that he has no credibiity. They said that I have credibility, and that is why they were approaching me. This leads me to think, obviously, that I have much more credibility than all the people they have.

My first thought is how much interest would I have in helping people who endorsed everything Noriega did.

Now if we put all this together, there are even some Panamanian lawyers involved. I am going to tell you that I told this to LA PRENSA; perhaps they wanted something in writing. Later, I am going to confirm this whith a fax I obtained accidentally. Someone saw Victoria Amado [Noriega's former mistress] with several Panamanians. They had received a fax at the Hilton. It seems that they threw the paper away.

This certain person, whose identity I have to protect, knew her and picked up the paper. Fortunately, I obtained it, because they were going to take it to the embassy [not further specifed]. Of course, I was very interested to see what is going on as regards Noriega, although I do not like to persecute anyone, nor do I have anything against Vicky Amado.

The text of the fax reads: From the desk of Alejandro Perez, Victoria Amado, and a fax number: Vicky, I repeat Vicky, we are fighting for Rogelio Cruz's head. I am a little behind. Understand me. Alejandro.

I do not know who Alejandro Perez [lawyer for many Noriega regime officials] is. He is not a lawyer known to me. He must be from another generation. I do not know if he is Vicky Amado's lawyer. She is fully entitled to have a lawyer and to defend herself. I do not know, however, what they mean by saying that they are fighting for Rogelio Cruz's head, and why Victoria Amado must be told of this. Now I am speaking from a political viewpoint. What interest could she have for or against Rogelio Cruz? I do not know what they mean. I do not know if they are fighting for or against Cruz. Besides, why should she be interested in this? I do not know what they mean by: I am little behind. Understand me. To me this seems like a somewhat respectful attitude. It is like when someone is reporting or explaining.

I am saying this because the United States and Panama are two different things. All the United States has to do

is to ask someone who knows about drugs; for instance, one would be Madrinan. All they have to do is ask this government that does everything the United States wants it to do, and they will send them Madrinan or anyone else, in a plane. I suppose they want someone with more credibility. That is what they told me: We want someone with credibility. According to them, Blandon does not have credibility. That is what Robert Harris told me. We want someone who will be believed. It seems they have a very serious problem. They still do not have enough legal evidence in the United States to convict Noriega. Right now that is a U.S. problem. They did not take advantage of the situation at the time, because I was trying to contact someone—this is worth mentioning because I know that the U.S. Embassy monitors your program—while Noriega was still in office with all his power, so I could talk with someone at the U.S. Embassy.

I sent a note to Maisto [former U.S. deputy chief of mission in Panama]. In my note, I told them that they did not have to buy me out or anything of the sort. I called the Panama desk, and I just called Mr. (Ben Cole) three days ago, too. I told them we are going to talk about this because you are meddling too much, and you are harming yourselves in Panama, because you have an army—and I reiterated this to them on Friday—that is playing the role of policeman without knowing how to do it. The Panamanian in charge of the police has failed miserably because he is politicizing it. You will ask: Why are we hurting ourselves? Because every time you act, the people act as a boomerang against you.

There is no more applause because of the current government's ineptness and corruption, because there is corruption in the high level of government.

They wanted to ask me about Mike Petrosky [pilot and friend of Noriega] and an alleged organization that was bringing in Cubans through the Caribbean islands. I told them I knew nothing of that. I know absolutely nothing about that.

I bravely already told what I knew, whithout pressure from any attorney general or any U.S. or Panamanian official.

This shameful thing that I am witnessing, Mayin, is one of the topics that I wanted to discuss. One is about Noriega in the United States and the fax, which I do not understand. Perhaps you have some way of interpreting it, and the pressure that they are exerting because it seems that they are not doing too well on the Noriega case. [sentence as heard]

That is what I have to say Mayin. If there is anything you would like to discuss, I will gladly do so.

[Mayin] No Roberto. I am going to call Alejandro. He is a lawyer who calls our station often. I will ask him about that fax now that is has been made public. I did not even know that Vicky Amado could travel. I thought she was banned from traveling, like some other people. Now I hear that she was in Caracas. When was she in Caracas?

[Diaz Herrera] According to what I heard, she was staying at the Caracas Hilton. She was traveling with two other Panamanain women. I am not sure. I believe it was her daughter. According to the Attorney General's Office, they are interested in putting me in jail. That is all plain bullshit [preceding word in English], like the Americans say. They claim that it is about the Spadafora case. Winston Spadafora knows that all this is a lie. They say that they want to take me to Panama. The attorney general says that he will go to the airport to pick me up. Victoria Amado, however, can go anywhere she feels like; and so can many others. There are hoodlums from the Noriega area going around freely. I imagine that these people who have a lot, lot of money are roaming around freely. In Panama the judicial system is still corrupt. It is very corrupt. The government is still immoral in many aspects. It is as immoral as in the time of Noriega. Of course, many bad things could be said about the Noriega regime, because I myself said them. A government that can see the people's suffering and still does so many incorrect things is even worse than the immoral regime they ousted.

[Mayin] That is nothing. If you could see Mrs. (Causadias) speaking on television. She is giving advice on morality and also criticizes. It is horrible. Roberto. Is there anything else, Roberto? I am going to invite Alejandro Perez. He belongs to the lawyers group, which is really, as the fax says, fighting for Attorney General Cruz.. It is true. They led the movement.

[Diaz Herrera] Then he is in favor of Rogelio Cruz?

[Mayin] Of course. Thank you Roberto. I am going to invite Alejandro Perez. He calls often. We have always opened our microphone to him, for him to say whatever he knows regarding this fax mentioned by Col. Roberto Diaz Herrera.

Director Says Police Not Ready To Defend Canal

PA0403152791 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 1 Mar 91 p 2

[By Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Panama City—Police director Ebrahim Asvat admitted yesterday that right now the national police are not ready to assume the responsibility of defending the Panama Canal. This task, he added, is currently being done by the U.S. Army, but it should be assumed by Panama by the year 2000, as stipulated in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

After attending a meeting of the Legislative Assembly Foreign Relations Commission, Asvat said that Panama should begin preparing to take over the job of protecting the canal today in order to be ready to assume this task by the end of the century.

Asvat, however, admitted that the nine remaining years are not enough for Panama to be able to assume this task. The task would have to be done quickly because the canal's functions require trained personnel, and investments to protect its important installations.

According to Asvat, this police force would need 1,400 men to protect the canal.

New Appointments at Attorney General's Office

PA0403170191 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 2 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] On 1 March, Attorney General Rogelio Cruz swore in eight prosecutors, the secretary general, and the narcotics secretary, all under the Attorney General's Office.

This makes official those appointments which had been announced by Cruz, thereby continuing the restructuring of the institution. This institution is currently the target of harsh criticism from numerous sectors in the community.

The four district attorneys who took office were: Rogelio Arosemena, Cecilia Lopez de Martin, Heraclido Sanjur, and Raul Rosales. These district attorneys belong to the First Judicial District of Panama.

Likewise, Special Prosecutor Carlos Agusto Herrera, Delegate Attorney Daniel Batista, Assistant District Attorney Rigoberto Gonzalez, Circuit Court Prosecutor Genarino Rosas, and Assistant District Attorney Carlos Herrera Moran took office.

Also, Maria Elena de Alvarez took office as secretary general of the Attorney General's Office and Ariel Alvarado as narcotics secretary.

It is expected that next week the attorney general will appoint new circuit court prosecutors, prosecuting officials and some heads of departments to complete the restructuring of the Attorney General's Office.

Meanwhile, the state attorney's office employees met yesterday to discuss the current upheaval taking place in the institution; however they did not issue any statement at the end of the meeting.

Argentina

Cavallo Gives Overview of Economic Situation

PY0203003091 Buenos Aires TELAM in 1828 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Mar (TELAM)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo said today that he will twist the arms of businessmen who do not lower prices—measured in dollars—in the internal market by implementing vary strict monetary and fiscal policies.

At a news conference in which he announced the new tariff policy, Cavallo indicated that the government will maintain the current exchange rate band and that the Central Bank will sell all the dollars the market demands at 10,000 australes to the dollar.

The minister revealed that discounts due to seasonal factors and the volume of natural gas consumed will be granted to small and medium-size enterprises, as well as to large enterprises if they abide by the price policy established by the government.

He denied that the opening of the economy in April will cause damage, as did the economic opening at the end of the 1980's, because public expenditures are being drastically reduced and a privatization policy is being implemented so the government will not have to contract any domestic or foreign debt.

He said the February inflation rate will be considerably below 30 percent but that at the wholesale level the inflation rate will be higher than 30 percent. The minister also said that the collection of the first tax withholding on assets is larger than projected. Although he gave no details, Cavallo said this fact makes the prospects for March look good.

During the meeting, Minister Cavallo emphasized the need to lower internal prices. He also noted that the new tariff system will be implemented on 1 April precisely because a resistance to downward flexibility has been noticed. That is why we had to hurry, said Minister Cavallo, who added that the implementation of the antidumping policy will also depend on the movement of internal prices.

Cavallo pointed out that the new tariff system will not reduce tax revenues; on the contrary, they will increase because the volume of imports will be greater and products that were previously banned will now pay a 22-percent tariff.

The economy minister asserted that the austral is fully backed with net reserves and gold reserves at the Central Bank and denied that foreign payments made in recent weeks had altered the ratio between means of payment and reserves.

A month ago we set the upper limit of the exchange rate band with some freedom, not counting gold reserves, Cavallo said. Asked why the dollar was being negotiated at more than 10,000 australes in the market, he noted: "Because analysts and money market operators are making comments that show that they either do not understand our message or they do not believe what we are saying."

Tariff Restructuring Detailed

PY0303223891 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 2 Mar 91 p 7

[Excerpt] (DYN)—The government's efforts to open the Argentine economy will take another step forward on April 1, when the structure of ad valorem import tariffs is to be revised.

From that date, Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo announced yesterday, imports will be subject to three different tariffs: finished goods will pay 22 percent, intermediate goods will pay 11 percent, and foods and inputs that are not produced in Argentina will not pay tariffs.

Cavallo also revealed that the so-called specific import duties would be eliminated, and that non-tariff barriers in the form of quality controls on imported cement and fuel products would also go.

He further announced that from April 1 imported cars will be subject to the same tax regime as locally-produced vehicles.

Also from April 1 internal taxes on imported goods will be calculated using a sales margin of 30 percent rather than the 50 percent that applies now. [passage omitted]

Companies Invited To Aid in Kuwait's Rebuilding

PY0203013091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2006 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Mar (TELAM)—Jorge Telermann, director for institutional affairs at the Argentine Foreign Ministry, today announced that the Foreign Ministry will provide liaison services for all Argentine companies interested in participating in the rebuilding of Kuwait following the end of the war with Iraq.

Telermann made these remarks during a news conference at the Foreign Ministry. He stated that Argentina has been invited to express its interest in rebuilding Kuwait, but made it clear that the Argentine Government will not extend loans to businessmen who want to participate in this undertaking.

Railway Conflict Continues; Trustee Appointed

PY0303224091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 3 Mar 91 p 4

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN)—Train services around the country remained halted for the 18th consecutive day as wildcat strikers refused to soften their stance and the government maintained its resolution not to negotiate wages or re-hire dismissed workers until protests end.

The communication of the indefinite stoppage was overwhelmingly ratified yesterday in assemblies held by most of the 70-odd striking branches.

Labour Minister Enrique Rodriguez said railway workers "lost the chance to avoid lay-offs by failing to heed compulsory conciliation."

In statements to Radio America, the minister admitted that the claims of strikers were "legitimate" but the government would "not negotiate within a framework of illegality."

Likewise, Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo underlined that "pay hikes cannot be granted in the middle of an indefinite stoppage."

"If the personnel return to work there will be greater profits and privatization will get underway, providing the company with more revenue and improving employee wages," he added.

Diaz in turn forecast that the wage situation and mass dismissals could be "easily" solved if only workers returned to the job and joined the bargaining table.

President Carlos Menem on Friday [1 March] blasted the strike as "a rebellion against the Constitution and the laws" while Cavallo branded protesters "anarchists."

The virtual intervention of La Fraternidad train drivers union failed to go into effect yesterday as union leaders and workers remained holed up in union premises to prevent the measure.

La Fraternidad secretary-general Ernesto Jaime himself spent the night in his office on Hipolito Yrigoyen street close to Congress, braced for the arrival of Ricardo Fernandez Amenabar who was appointed union trustee on Friday by the government.

Engine drivers, who began their conflict in defiance of the union leadership, said they would defend union premises "with tooth and claw" as clearly stated by rebel delegate Luis Peralta.

Diaz explained that La Fraternidad was not yet intervened "but we have opened legal proceedings to achieve the intervention and a trustee is working hard to normalize the situation" of the railways. The minister said Amenabar would aim at reopening the normal channels of collective wage bargaining talks with management.

The striking union branches remained in "state of permanent deliberation," as reported by Julio Lombardelli, spokesman for the rebel sector's Liaison Board.

In related news, 800 wagons storing a 32,000-ton wheat load are held up in Roca and Sarmiento line warehouses in Buenos Aires and La Pampa provinces due to the railway conflict, it was revealed yesterday.

The Grain Handlers Association said the cargo has been blocked for almost 30 days and faced the risk of contamination.

The entity warned that Ferrocarriles Argentinos would be held responsible for the fate of the harvest and the possible economic consequences if the wheat was rejected by the National Grain Board.

There is also growing concern over the need to free warehouse space for the coming course grain harvest. [passage omitted]

Government Closes Several Railroad Lines

PY0403221191 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2041 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Mar (NA)—This afternoon the government ordered the closure of several urban and suburban railroad branch lines of the San Martin, Mitre, and Roca Railroads. They are currently used by passengers and cargo and the order will remain in force until the railroads are privatized. The measure will become effective at midnight on 5 March.

The government also ordered the suspension of 13,900 workers on the affected railroad lines. The workers will collect their salaries during the privatization negotiations.

Bolivia

Minimun Salary Increase of 100 Percent Ordered

PY0203024091 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Today the national government promulgated Decree 22789, ordering a 100-percent increase in the minimum salary for the public and private sectors as of 1 January 1991. The national minimum salary will therefore be 120 bolivianos per month. [passage omitted]

* 1991 Budget To Be Presented to Congress

* Budget Allocations

91SM0191A Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 19 Jan 91 p B2

[Text] La Paz, 18 Jan (ANF [Fides News Agency]). In the financial bill to be presented to Congress next week, the aggregate public sector budget for 1991 comes to a total of 13.5787 billion bolivianos.

This information was provided by Finance Minister David Blanco, who indicated that this reconfiguration of public spending results in a savings of 169 million bolivianos.

The aggregate budget allocates 4.0667 billion bolivianos to the central administration. This includes both its own funding and resources from the TGN [General Treasury of the Nation], Minister Blanco explained.

The prefectures and corporations will receive 734.6 million bolivianos, while the decentralized institutions and social security will receive 1.6495 billion.

Nonfinancial public enterprises will receive 6.5497 billion bolivianos and financial institutions, including the Central Bank, BAMIN [Mining Bank of Bolivia] and BANEST [State Bank] will get 607.9 million.

The Treasury

Total National Treasury revenue will reach 2.9599 billion bolivianos. The sources of this revenue are shown below:

Treasury Revenue Sources

Source	Amounts in Millions of Bolivianos
Internal revenue	832.1
Customs revenue	190.0
Hydrocarbon sales	
In domestic market	1,187.5
In external market	323.4
ENTEL transfers	70.0
Donations	277.5
Integration Fund	47.9
Other sources	31.5
Total	2,959.9

ENTEL [National Telecommunications Enterprise]

The TGN income from customs and internal revenues is given in net amounts, and does not include the coparticipation of the universities, local governments, or regional development corporations, which have 25 percent of the total.

Internal revenue collections will be 28 percent higher than in 1990, while customs revenue will be 15 percent above last year, according to Minister Blanco.

TGN expenditures in 1991, 3.1645 billion bolivianos, will exceed revenues, creating a 204.7 million deficit. This will be covered by resources from the Integration and Development Fund corresponding to 18 percent of the gas invoices for the last four months of 1990. This means that 96,000,000 bolivianos will be financed by the private sector accounts payable item.

The 1991 TGN budget "does not include tax increases in internal revenue or modifications in customs revenue. It also means that the CRA [expansion unknown] has a term of only two months, and has been reduced by 6 to 10 percent," explained the minister.

Government Spending

In the 1991 budget the nonfinancial public sector deficit will be reduced from 3.2 percent in 1990 to 2.8 percent, a shrinkage in public spending arising essentially from presidential orders.

A reduction in public spending with 20 departments would not really mean an adjustment in public spending, which is being reduced 5 percent in relation to public spending in 1990.

The real adjustment in current spending in 1991 will be 169,000,000 bolivianos distributed as follows:

Public Spending Adjustments

Institution	Amount in Bolivianos
Central administration	10,000,000
Development corporations	3,300,000
Public nonprofit decentralized institutions	6,000,000
Nonfinancial public enterprises	150,000,000
Total	169,300,000

Finally, wages will increase between 12 and 15 percent in relation to the 1990 budget. Projected inflation will also be between 12 and 15 percent, according to the finance minister.

* Breakdown by Department

91SM0191B Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 22 Jan 91 p B1

[Text] La Paz, 21 Jan (ANF). Santa Cruz Department will receive 26.7 percent of the total public investment budget programmed for this year, announced the chairman of the Economic Policy Commission of the Lower Chamber, Tito Hoz de Vila, when reporting the regional budget allocations. The legislative commission received the budget bill on Monday afternoon.

This year's public investment budget will be $596 million, of which $159.3 million will be earmarked for Santa Cruz Department, the region with the highest funding allocation.

Hoz de Vila, who will be in charge of the budget review in parliament, called upon all the regional parliamentary groups to review the funding allocations, starting this Tuesday. The ministers of finance and planning and the executives of the development corporations will take part in these sessions.

The executive's proposed public investment budget is broken down as follows:

Santa Cruz	$159.3million
Cochabamba	$112.2million
La Paz	$111.1million
Chuquisaca	$ 54.2million
Tarija	$ 52.1million
Potosi	$ 42.5million
Oruro	$ 29.8million
Beni	$ 28.9million
Pando	$ 6.6million

Among the major projects to be executed in Santa Cruz Department, the chairman of the Economic Commission mentioned the following:

- Construction of the Yapacani-Guabira road, the asphalting of the Santa Cruz-Trinidad road, the rehabilitation of tracks and improvement of the Santa Cruz-Corumba and Santa Cruz-Yacuiba railway, construction of the Santa Cruz-Palmar Grande road, and expansion of ENTEL's [National Telecommunications Enterprise] digital network.
- Also included among the 1991 investments in this department are: the exploration of stratigraphic traps for petroleum production, and the development of the Sirari, Naranjillos, Cascabel, Camiri, Vibora, Yapacani and other fields.
- Construction of the Rio Grande-Santa Cruz pipeline, expansion of the ENDE [National Electricity Enterprise] substations, construction of the Vibora-Sirari and Sirari-Yapacani gas pipelines, construction of local roads, improvements in the water supply system for the capital of Santa Cruz Department.
- The Santa Cruz-Abapo road, the dual track to Warnes, and the improvement of Avenida Virgen de Cotoca.

The budget allocation for Santa Cruz also includes the construction of sports facilities for the Bolivian Games and 50 other projects in agriculture, energy, communications, health and education.

Tito Hoz de Vila emphasized the importance of the government's guaranteeing the counterpart fund in obtaining loan payments and donations making up this year's investment total.

Brazil

Economic Policy Official Views Collor-2 Plan

PY0403191591 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Mar 91 p 16

[Interview with Antonio Kandir, economic policy secretary of the Economy Finance and Planning Ministry, by O ESTADO reporters Severino Goes, Gecy Belmonte, and Armando Mendes; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [O ESTADO] Does the Collor-2 Plan, which was submitted to Congress by the executive branch, continue unchanged or was it decimated by the modifications made to it by Congress?

[Kandir] I believe the essence of the plan has been preserved and that many of the modifications have improved the original text. [passage omitted]

[O ESTADO] The government has managed to maintain deregulation and the freeze, which are the essential parts of its plan. It has also set salary conditions for the next six months. What is the next step?

[Kandir] The main task now is to implement the plan. This is a very important task because changes have been made in the financing scheme of the economy through the Financial Investment Fund, and there is a price deregulation period that must be administered. Several initiatives must also be adopted for the continued implementation of the structural measures. We should implement the Capital Market Master Plan and the Real Estate Fund. The official credit institutions must redefine their operational financial policies based on the guidelines of the Industrial Competitiveness Program. Those are our main concerns. Moreover, we should also continue the debates on the foreign debt and we must create appropriate conditions for managing the public sector. I would say that the administration of state-run enterprises will become one of the most important issues.

[O ESTADO] When and how does the government intend to end the price freeze?

[Kandir] We want to give flexibility to prices as soon as possible because the price freeze is not the essential factor of the plan: The objective of the freeze is to control demand and to create conditions for increasing productivity, which form a part of the various structural measures that we are implementing.

[O ESTADO] What does flexibility mean? Does it mean price readjustments for some products that have obsolete prices or is it a price freeze?

[Kandir] Flexibility is a generic word that in some cases means price readjustment and in other cases means a price freeze.

[O ESTADO] The price freeze will then be gradual?

[Kandir] Prices will be deregulated over a period that will guarantee stabilization. Under no circumstances do we want to experience a greater imbalance. Controlling demand and increasing productivity are the factors that can actually reduce inflation. I believe that the approval of the measures has reduced many of the negative expectations regarding the Plan. The sooner such expectations drop, the sooner the price freeze will end. During this past week we have seen extremely positive signals. Meat, for example, initially registered a shortage but the situation is now returning to normal. Meat prices are dropping and levels of supply now stand at reasonable levels. We have also set in motion the Industrial Competitiveness Program, which gives economic agents a broader margin of predictability. The management of the financial market has been quite successful and the attraction of savings has been extremely positive. Finally, the evolution of prices is continuing to improve week by week. It is easy to see that prices have been substantially adjusted. In addition, the measures were approved on the basis of a major political accord. All this makes us much more optimistic over the price flexibility period, that is, the adjustment will take place faster than we expected.

[O ESTADO] It has been reported that in the past few days demand has increased. Could a sudden increase in demand cause a shortage now that there are specific salary conditions with bonuses that will be granted over a six-month period?

[Kandir] We do not think there will be such a trend, because I have the impression that the remuneration on savings will visibly surpass prices increases, which are reflected by statistical figures. No other stabilization program has promoted such a strong level of savings.

[O ESTADO] Going back to the state-run enterprises, every economy minister has tried to control them but failed. What will the current team do?

[Kandir] That is an important point because there has been some confusion concerning the Committee for the Control of State-Run Enterprises [CCE] that we created. It is quite an innovative organization. The experience of the SEST (State Enterprises Control Secretariat, under the Sarney administration) clearly showed that strict control does not work. The government then chose to avoid controlling policies affecting personnel and prices, and indeed all the policies of state-run enterprises, because this approach does not allow this type of enterprise to operate as they should. On the other hand, however, those organizations are not private enterprises because the federal government is the majority stockholder and it has some objectives that it wants achieved by those enterprises. The best thing to do then is to avoid a system of total control or a system of total freedom in which bills are charged to the majority stockholder. The CCE's priority role is to convince state-run enterprises to operate on regulated management contracts [contratos de gestao].

There will be a transition stage in which state-run enterprises that do not want to be placed under strict control may submit their project for a regulated management contract. Later, once it has the approval of the State-Run Enterprise Statute in Congress, regulated management contracts will become compulsory. For the time being they will be voluntary.

[O ESTADO] How will regulated management contracts operate?

[Kandir] They include some rules regarding the obligations assumed by the enterprise's executive board and the objectives of the enterprise. Contracts will give management flexibility to the enterprises plus safeguards in case of problems like a war. Most important, however, are the penalties for failing to achieve, and the benefits for succeeding in achieving, the objectives. This means that the federal government requires managers and executives to attain the goals established in the regulated management contracts. Success or failure in achieving such goals will result in rewards, or penalties that can even include the replacement of executives. [passage omitted]

[O ESTADO] The government is preparing measures to attract foreign investments. Apparently, it will be the most important economic issue field in the next few months. What will be done in that field?

[Kandir] We are still in a phase of technical studies, evaluating what can be done. This will be specified once we have discussed with society the master guidelines of the country project that we have been drawing up since the beginning of the Collor administration. It is our objective to hold a broad discussion on the effective role of foreign capital in this phase of the international economy and on the conditions we must create to facilitate the arrival of foreign capital.

[O ESTADO] What will the government propose in this field?

[Kandir] From our point of view, we are sure that in order to attain prosperity and social and political stability we need the most drastic solution to the problem of poverty. To do this we must increase productivity. We need to recover the level of real salaries. The only way to make salary increases compatible with a stabilization program is by increasing productivity. In order to increase productivity we need to heavily invest in several fields, and we must not forget to create the right conditions to attract foreign investment. Without incurring any desperate measure—since we will not make decisions that may harm the foreign debt negotiation or affect the stabilization program—we are trying to create in all fields the conditions to attract foreign capital by stimulating investments and by increasing productivity. That is the only possible way by which we can raise real salaries and reduce poverty. [passage omitted]

Former Minister Criticizes Economic Measures

PY0203204091

[Editorial Report] Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese on 28 February publishes on page 8 of the Economic Section a 3,200-word interview with former Brazilian Finance Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen by reporter Vanessa de Godoy in which a variety of economic topics are discussed.

Asked about his opinion of the Collor-2 Plan, Simonsen says: "It is another plan that changes the rules in the middle of the game. It affects property rights and interferes with contracts." Simonsen adds that "for a market economy to function, it is necessary to absolutely respect property rights" and "contracts" because "capitalist economies are based on trust."

Simonsen comments on the current economic team's insistence on solutions that did not work in the past, saying that "the government reached the conclusion that it could not stand by with inflation reaching 20 percent a month." He adds that perhaps "the government wanted a chance to catch its breath."

Asked about the plan's contradictions, Simonsen notes that "there are decisions that do not make much sense" and adds that some measures "are extremely contradictory."

Simonsen, asked what he would do if he were the economy minister, says he would "stop issuing economic plans through provisional measures" because what is needed is "a political change" and "stable rules."

Commenting on the damage caused by instability, Simonsen says capital savings have dropped sharply over the year and that people "are running away from the market." He wonders: "How is the country going to finance its investments without savings?"

Asked about the Financial Fund, Simonsen says such a fund "would resolve very little" because it is too small.

Simonsen comments on the government's ability to control monetary policy, saying that "the basic idea" of the fund "was to take money away from the overnight market," but that "the correct solution would have been to simply increase taxes on financial operations."

On the plan's goal of ending indexation, Simonsen says the real problem is "the high inflation rate" because people "are trying to protect themselves." Simonsen adds: "The government may establish an official index, but it will not prevent society from following other indexes as well." Simonsen concludes that "we cannot end indexation with a high inflation rate."

Asked about the possibility of a national understanding, Simonsen says: "What the government needs is a political coalition to guarantee a majority in Congress."

Asked about the increasing recession, high prices, and if it is true that entrepreneurs are just not cooperating, Simonsen points out that "no one should design an economic plan thinking capitalism is like charity" because the objective of companies "is to make a profit." Simonsen says the government "should fight oligopolies and cartels" through "antitrust laws and price controls and by opening up imports," but adds that the high inflation rate makes everything more difficult.

Banco do Brasil To Close Many Branches, Offices

PY0403214391 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 4 Mar 91

[All numbers as heard]

[Text] The Banco do Brasil will begin procedures for closing 1430 branches throughout the country. The state with the largest number of branches to be closed is Minas Gerais, where 72 branches and offices will be closed. In Bahia, 24 branches will be closed, 17 in Maranhao, 14 in Rio Grande do Sul, 14 in Sao Paulo, 14 in Para, 12 in Alagoas, 10 in Paraiba, 9 in Pernamuco, 9 in Rio Grande do Norte, 8 in Ceara, 5 in Parana, 4 in Espirito Santo, 4 in Mato Grosso do Sul, 3 in Goias, 3 in Piaui, 2 in Santa Catarina, 2 in Mato Grosso, 2 in Tocantins, and 1 in Sergipe.

The state of Rio de Janeiro and the Brasilia federal district will not be affected by the closures.

The offices to be closed have 15 days beginning today to start the closure procedures. Clients have until 19 March to transfer their accounts. Employees have 30 days to register and to apply for positions in 10 branches in different towns. The bank's executive board, however, has not ruled out the possibility of dismissing employees.

Petrobras Dismisses Striking Oil Workers

PY0203150091 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] The Brazilian Petroleum Corporation [Petrobras] has fired striking workers who were summoned to work, but failed to appear. Petrobras President Eduardo Teixeira said he made the decision to fire these workers on the fourth day of the oil workers strike because no agreement had been reached between Petrobras and the unions on setting up emergency teams to maintain essential services in oil refineries and stations.

The Oil Workers Union has reported that the workers at the Investment Fund—also known as Fundao— research centers and 14 of the 19 Campos Basin platforms have joined the strike.

The strike is still concentrated in the industrial area, where six refineries remain completely paralyzed. The other four refineries are operating with minimum staffing and are producing only 32 percent of their daily capacity.

Santos Port Workers End Strike; 5,000 Reinstated

PY0203150491 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Workers at the Port of Santos have returned to work following a 22-day strike. An agreement was reached for the reinstatement of 5,000 port workers who were dismissed eight days ago.

Modernization of the port terminal will begin next week. A commission consisting of government, business, and union representatives will study proposals to improve port services.

State of Emergency Declared in Much of Bahia

PY0203161691 Madrid EFE in English 0405 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Salvador, Brazil, March 1 (EFE)—After more than a year without rain, a state of emergency has been declared in 197 municipalities in the northeastern Brazilian state of Bahia, press reports said Friday [1 March]. An estimated 300,000 people face starvation in the worst

hit areas of Bahia, and municipal authorities have advised whole communities to move to other parts of the country.

Since last September, Bahia authorities have distributed some 180,000 baskets of basic foodstuffs, as well as supplying drinking water. Two weeks ago, violence erupted in the town of Jaguaribe, 240 km northwest of the state capital of Salvador, after citizens there sacked a supermarket. According to Civil Defense figures, more than 30,000 people have fled the scorched countryside to find work in Salvador and other coastal cities.

Drought Damages Crops in Rio Grande do Sul

PY0203165491 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] A three month-long drought has caused irreversible damage to soybean, corn, and rice crops in Rio Grande do Sul State. According to reports released by four organizations, the soybean and corn harvests will be 24.22 percent and 37 percent lower, respectively, than production estimates made when cropping began.

Irrigated rice crops have not suffered significant losses, but the quality of the seeds will be affected.

Rui Polidoro, president of the Federation of Brazilian Wheat and Soybean Cooperatives, has described the situation as very difficult.

* Expansion of Activities in Antarctica Viewed

91SM0195A Rio de Janeiro MANCHETE in Portuguese 9 Feb 91 pp 37-45

[Article by Claudio Accioli: "The Other Brazil Which Brazil Does Not Know"]

[Text] The latitude is 62° 05' South, and the longitude is 58° 23.5' West. Precisely where these polar coordinates intersect, there is a little piece of Brazil about which few Brazilians know. There, the color in our flag which predominates is white. It represents peace, but more important, snow. After eight years in operation, the Commander Ferraz Antarctic Station has definitively consolidated the Brazilian presence on the legendary frozen continent, perhaps the last frontier on the face of the earth to be crossed by man. Seen from a helicopter flying over the Keller Peninsula on King George Island in the South Shetland Archipelago, the appearance of the station modules situated in a lunar setting leaves no doubt. The "sci-fi" atmosphere of the future we have seen on moving picture screens is already here in the present. In this year when the Antarctic Treaty, which governs the destiny of the region, is to be reviewed, President Collor visited Ferraz on 20 February. And MANCHETE was present at the station, to provide an exclusive description of the life of the heroes who occupy our "white territory" on a rotating basis. Here you will learn about polar Brazil.

The involvement of Brazil in Antarctica began in 1975, when the country formally endorsed the Antarctic Treaty, which was signed by 12 nations on 1 December 1959 and was ratified two years later. This agreement, with only 14 articles, was designed to preserve the entire area south of the 60th parallel, including the ice shelves, as a vast natural-resource laboratory. The underlying purpose was to prevent, or at least to postpone, a rise in the temperature in this much-coveted region, and to avoid conflict among the countries desirous of exploiting it.

Within this context, the saga of the Brazilians on the frozen continent officially began in November 1982, with the first summer expedition, dubbed Antarctic Operation I. By the following year, Brazil had become a consulting member of the Antarctic Treaty. Finally, in February of 1984, the great step was taken. The eight modules which provided the initial facilities at the Commander Ferraz Antarctic Station were established on King George Island in the South Shetland Archipelago. They were transported, piece by piece, by the oceanic support vessel (NApOc) Barao de Teffe, which was purchased from Denmark and incorporated in the Brazilian naval fleet in 1982.

To ensure the efficiency of this station, the Brazilian Antarctic Program (PROANTAR) was created. The National Commission for Antarctic Affairs (CONANTAR) establishes the political policies, and the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Ocean Resources (CIRM) analyzes the research projects proposed by the universities for approval and financing, as well as guaranteeing their execution and providing all of the necessary logistic support. The Barao de Teffe leaves Brazil every November, carrying equipment, food, fuel, and military personnel to the station, where it remains for 4 months to assist in the research. And the FAB [Brazilian Air Force] dispatches flights (four in the summer and three in the winter) for the purpose of transporting the teams of researchers and food supplies, using Hercules C-130 aircraft.

Arriving in Ferraz today, during Brazil's Antarctic Operation IX, one can see the first indications that much has changed in the course of eight years. The mere eight modules installed initially have become 59, making the station much safer and more comfortable. Set on rectangles of concrete to prevent slippage caused by the snow, the modules look rather like boxcars arranged as if in a game of dominoes. They are constructed of galvanized steel and wood, and the inner walls are lined with layers of phenolic resin to ensure thermal insulation. The buildings are designed to withstand temperatures of -35°C and winds of up to 200 km/h.

The well-equipped medical station has a surgical center for minor procedures and an infirmary with two beds. "Fortunately, the cases we most often see here are routine—injuries caused by accidents at work, in climbing, etc.," Lt. Luis Aurelio, a general surgeon who arrived in Ferraz on 4 December to provide medical care during the 1990-1991 summer operation, says. "Our

greatest concern is to prevent injuries caused by the cold, such as the freezing of body extremities, hypothermia, burns, and the blindness caused by the intense light of solar rays reflected by the snow."

Cook Almeida does everything possible to keep the Ferraz population happy. "The personnel here have rather good appetites, but they do not like frozen food very much. And so we make our little arrangements, and we pride ourselves on our menus, even cooking beans," he says. His meals are enjoyed in a handsome restaurant with full wood paneling. There is a small bar in the back and the windows offer a panoramic view of the South Pole.

All of these comforts are directly dependent on the proper functioning of the core, or cores, of the station—two heavy generators which operate on diesel oil. Another important factor is the drinking-water supply provided by two lakes located a short distance above the station. A thermal isopor belt with electrical resistance prevents the pipes from freezing, and the system continues to operate even during the winter (water freezes only on the surface). Two tractors, a stacking machine, two lighters which transport the cargo brought in by the Barao de Teffe, and two snowmobiles complete the operational facilities of the station, along with telephone, telex, and fax equipment.

A base group of eight naval personnel is in charge of administration and maintenance. The group includes the chief (Commander Arnoldo Caiado, for this 1990-91 summer operation), the deputy chief, a doctor, a diver, a communications specialist, an engineer, an electrician, and a cook. The rest of the crew serving in Ferraz varies with the annual work cycle, which includes two distinct phases. They are the summer operation (from the beginning of December to the end of February) and the winter season. During the former, there is a fluctuating population of about 20 researchers who rotate on the basis of the four FAB flights. In the second phase, which begins in March, there are only four persons in addition to the base group. In all, therefore, exactly 12 crew members remain at the station throughout the long and hard 9-month winter, facing temperatures of as low as -30°C, a frozen sea, and the darkness of an almost uninterrupted night. "I would not like to participate in that phase," stated the deputy chief for the 1990-91 Summer Operation, Lt. Paulo Cesar Pegas, the intendant, who is serving at Ferraz for the first time. Married and the father of two, he says: "A family creates a strong emotional attachment. Children feel absences very deeply."

For this crew, however, there is no lack of work. The lines of research defined by the PROANTAR range from the atmospheric sciences (meteorology and upper-atmosphere physics, related to the ozone layer, radiation, etc.) to the life sciences (biology and medicine), and including the earth sciences (continental and marine geology, and oceanography). Currently 19 projects have been approved and 16 are under way. All of them originated with the universities and research institutes.

But all of the researchers agree unanimously that, more than a scientific experience, their stay at the Brazilian station has been a great life experience. "It is a veritable reeducation, a new apprenticeship," says chemist Rosalinda Montone of the Sao Paulo University (USP) Oceanographic Institute, who is serving at Ferraz for the second time. She is pursuing research on marine pollution in the Antarctic. "Relationships cease to be superficial," she adds. And the camaraderie extends beyond the walls of the station modules. In a tower of Babel in which everyone understands the other, the crews of the various stations, motivated by the isolation and the hostile environment, also maintain close contacts. Those closest to the Brazilians are the Poles. This proximity is facilitated by the short distance between the two bases—only 10 km—which can be covered by boat, in winter, and on foot, with the help of special snowshoes for crossing the frozen surface of the water, in winter. Last New Year's Eve, for example, the Brazilian crew made a point of getting as far as the Arctowski Station for the general celebration.

For the rest, there are only seals, sea lions, and penguins for company, or perhaps the rare tourists who venture into the Antarctic on board luxury cruise ships. From time to time these vessels appear in Almirantado Bay opposite Ferraz. "The passengers are enchanted," Captain Pegas says.

No one knows how much longer this will continue. Article 12 of the Antarctic Treaty provides that 30 years after the treaty went into effect (1961), any of the contracting parties may ask that a conference be held to review the terms of the agreement. The agenda might possibly include exploitation of the mineral resources of the Antarctic, or even prospecting for oil, if its existence in the region should be confirmed. In addition to this, some countries are claiming strips of territory. Like the United States, the Soviet Union, and Japan, Brazil has already made its nonterritorialist position clear so as to avoid litigation with the other signatory nations of the treaty. President Fernando Collor, who is scheduled to visit the Commander Ferraz Antarctic Station on 20 February, has the floor.

Chile

Aylwin Addresses Nation on Human Rights Report

PY0503024891 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0006 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Speech by President Patricio Aylwin Azocar from Government House in Santiago; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Fellow countrymen, I am addressing you tonight to discuss a painful subject that still divides the Chilean people—the human rights violations of the past few years. When I assumed power, I said this subject is an open wound in our national soul that will only be cured if we seek a reconciliation on the basis of truth and justice. With this objective, we created the National

Commission of Truth and Reconciliation with individuals of renowned prestige and moral authority in Chile so that after they received, collected, and analyzed all possible records on the subject, they would issue a serious report on the most severe human rights violations committed in Chile between 11 September 1973 and 11 March 1990.

To this effect, we specified that serious human rights violations were to be understood to be cases in which individuals were missing, detained, executed, or tortured to death, and in which the government's moral responsibility was at stake because of actions committed by its agents or people in its service. This is to include cases of kidnapping and attacks against human life carried out by individuals acting under political pretexts.

After nine months of hard work, the commission issued its report, which was agreed upon unanimously by its members who publicly handed it to me on 18 February. In compliance with what I announced at that time, I am releasing it to the public today. For this reason we have given copies of its full text to the nation's foremost public, social, and moral authorities, as well as to the media.

After carefully reading this report I think it is my duty to reiterate the recognition earned by the members of the commission and their aides for their total dedication, public spirit, efficiency, responsibility, and objectivity with which they complied with their task. I think their valuable contribution deserves the gratitude of all the Chilean people.

What does the report state?

The List of Facts

In its first 1,094 pages, after defining concepts and describing the historical, political, juridical, and institutional framework in which events took place, it recounts, in chronological order, all cases in which the commission is certain that a human rights violation was committed and resulted in the death or disappearance of identified victims, and it provides a report on the background and circumstances of the violation. Based on the concept that certain human values must be respected not only by the government, but by all political agents, and according to the decree that created this commission, the report defines as human rights violations certain actions committed by government agents, as well as other actions committed by individuals acting under a political pretext.

The list of facts divides the time into three periods: first, the period between 11 September and 31 December 1973, during which some confrontations and massive detentions took place throughout most of the country and executions of many political prisoners and the first disappearances of people took place. Then comes the DINA [National Intelligence Directorate] period, which lasted until August 1977. During this time systematic action was carried out to exterminate those whom the DINA considered politically dangerous. This was when the largest number of cases of missing people took place. Finally, there is the period in which the DINA was replaced by the CNI [National Intelligence Center], when, after a period of relative tranquillity, several violent actions took place with fatal results either as a consequence of attacks by armed or terrorist groups, operations to combat them, or the repression of protests that took place as of 1983.

For each period the report points out the characteristics and nature of the repressive organizations, as well as their preferred procedures, places of detention, and methods of torture and execution of victims. The report also describes attacks on human rights committed by individuals under political pretexts and actions of political violence that resulted in fatalities. It also describes the attitude assumed, in light of these facts, by the different sectors of civilian society, including political, social, and spiritual sectors, and the media.

The total for the entire period is 2,279 victims. Out of this total, the commission considers 164 to be victims of political violence and 2,115 to be victims of human rights violations. The latter may in turn be classified as follows:

A. Deaths by government agents or people in the service of the government by virtue of court martials—59; excessive repression during protests—90; executions related to the law on evasion—101; and other executions and deaths by torture—815. Subtotal: 1,068. [number as received]

B. Detained by government agents and then missing: 957.

C. Deaths caused by attacks by civilians under political pretexts: 90.

The report specifies that the commission learned of 641 other cases that, although specified case by case, it could not verify, for which reason the commission believes it is necessary to continue investigating.

The commission says that the judicial branch did not react with enough energy in light of these acts. This produced, in an important, though involuntary way, a worsening of the process of systematic violations of human rights by not granting immediate protection for detained victims in cases that were denounced before court and by granting the repressive agents a growing certainty of impunity for their criminal actions.

In the next 74 pages of the report, the commission complies with the assignment—established in the decree creating it—of recommending reparation and vindication measures it deems just and legal and administrative measures that, in its opinion, must be taken to impede or prevent new human rights violations.

Reparation to the Victims

After saying that the disappearance or death of a dear one is irreparable because it is not possible to measure

pain, helplessness, and a victim's hopes, the report says that moral and material compensation is absolutely necessary for the transition toward complete democracy.

I understand reparations to be a number of acts expressing the state's admission of and responsibility for the events and circumstances discussed in the report. The report says the reparation must involve all of Chilean society. This must be a process oriented toward the admission of the events in keeping with the truth, the victims' moral dignity, and the achievement of a better standard of living for the families that are directly involved.

The reparation process involves the courage to face the truth and the administration of justice. It requires generosity to admit wrongdoings and attitudes of pardon to achieve reconciliation among Chileans.

Concerning moral reparations, the report proposes publicly vindicating the victims' good names through acts suggested in the report as examples. It also proposes establishing a special procedure to report the deaths of missing detainees.

The recommendations concerning social welfare are designed to repair the moral damage as well as property damage incurred by the close relatives of the victims. To this effect, the report proposes, among other things, establishing by law a single reparation pension and measures designed to provide these relatives with special health services, reparations in the field of education, pardons for certain debts in the housing field, and exemptions from compulsory military service for the sons of victims.

The report also proposes the creation of an autonomous public rights foundation, managed by a council of the highest level and prestige which would continue the task of trying to determine the whereabouts of missing victims, pass judgment on cases of possible victims where the commission did not form an opinion, concentrate and keep records on human rights violations, provide legal and social assistance to victims' relatives, and other duties established by law.

Concerning the serious problem of determining the whereabouts of the victims, in cases of missing detainees and executed people whose remains were not delivered to their relatives, the report proposes punishing concealment of this type of information and guaranteeing confidentiality for those who provide such information while exempting them from responsibility for their probable involvement.

Prevention of Possible Violations

After pointing out that during the time when these violations were committed there did not exist in Chile a firm national conscience with respect to the imperative duty of respecting human rights, the report formulates several suggestions for improving national legislation on this matter.

The judicial branch should be perfected so it can effectively perform its role as guarantor of the peoples' essential rights. The Armed Forces and forces of order and security should become conscious of the value of human rights and, consequently, of a commitment to respect them in the exercise of their functions, thereby creating an institution whose function is to protect human rights. Also, a popular culture that is truly respectful of human rights should be consolidated through the educational system and all levels of social life.

Third and last, in a second volume of 635 pages, the report contains brief biographical data, in alphabetical order, for each of the 2,279 people who, the commission is convinced, died or disappeared as victims of violations of their human rights or as victims of political violence, including 132 members of the Armed Forces or forces of order and security.

That is a summary of the commission's report. Let us hope everyone reads it and ponders it. I invite all of you to do so.

Meditation is necessary in this instance. Allow me to share with you some thoughts that linger in my mind as a human being, a Chilean, and the president of the nation after reading the commission's report and exchanging views with representatives of various sectors of the nation.

First is the issue of truth. Truth lies at the foundation of coexistence. This assertion is valid for the multiple aspects of social life, from life at home to life in the world community. It is valid for family relations, as well as for the family of nations—nations taken individually or as a community. Wherever truth is not respected, confidence among people fades away, doubt sprouts, objections grow, and, consequently, hatred and violence. Lies are the anteroom of violence and, therefore, are incompatible with peace.

On the issue of human rights violations in our country, the truth was hidden for a long time. While some denounced the facts, others who knew the truth denied them, and those who should have investigated them did not. Therefore, it is understandable that many people, perhaps a majority of them, did not believe the facts that were denounced. This discrepancy became a new factor of division and hatred among Chileans.

The report that I am releasing today makes the truth clearer. This truth must be accepted by all considering the background of the report and the stature of its authors, many of whom supported and cooperated with the past regime. No one can ignore it in good faith. I am not saying it is the official truth. The state does not have the right to impose the truth, but I am convinced and I call on all my fellow countrymen to accept it and act accordingly.

Shared by all of us, however cruel and painful, this truth will remove a point of dispute and division among

Chileans. Recognition of this truth is independent of the judgment each one may have made of the political events that took place in those years, or of the legitimacy of 11 September 1973. History will be the final judge. Nevertheless, no judgment on those events will do away with the fact that the human rights violations described in the commission's report were actually committed.

As the report asserts, the situation on 11 September 1973 and its consequences represented an objective risk for human rights and made their violation possible, although unjustifiable. The existence of a state of internal war or the need to defend the fatherland from terrorism cannot be invoked to deny or disregard this truth.

We all know—and the report reminds us of this—that the Armed Forces and security forces very quickly took total control of the country, in a few days at the most. War also has laws. There is no justification for torturing or executing prisoners or for making their remains disappear.

Second is the issue of pardon and reconciliation. Many fellow countrymen think that it is time to finally end this matter. Chile's well-being demands that we look to a future that unites us more than a past that divides us. There is much to do before we can build a truly democratic society, promote development, and reach social justice. We should not waste all of our efforts digging into wounds that cannot be healed.

I recall what His Holiness John Paul II said when visiting us: Chile has a vocation for understanding and not for confrontation. We cannot progress by digging deeper into divisions. It is time for pardon and reconciliation.

Who could not want this? To accomplish it, however, we must begin by establishing the identity of the ones who were offended and now are called upon to forgive, as well as those who are the ones who offended and are to be pardoned. I cannot pardon anyone in the name of others. A pardon is not imposed by decree. Pardon demands repentance from one party and generosity from the other.

Because those who caused so much suffering were state agents, because the state organs could not prevent or punish the abuses, and because there was no social reaction to prevent them, the state and all society are responsible, whether by action or by omission.

It is Chilean society that owes a debt to the victims of human rights violations. This is why the suggestion in the report for moral and material compensation is shared by all sectors.

This is why I dare—as president of the Republic—to assume representation of the entire nation in begging forgiveness from the victims' relatives. I also ask the Armed Forces and security forces and all who participated in the excesses to recognize the pain they have caused and to cooperate in healing the wounds.

The Chilean people have always loved and admired their Armed Forces and security institutions. They are identified with the fatherland's glories, with the virile character of the Chileans, and with unselfish actions in everyday life or in facing serious emergencies. The yearning for reconciliation in a truly united Chile demands that we remove the obstacles that are still in the way. We should all contribute to it.

I have said on more than one occasion that my dearest wish as leader is to achieve national unity in democracy. This demands that each and every one make a great effort to put himself in the other person's place and try to understand him—with humility to recognize his own mistakes and limitations and with generosity to pardon the other person's mistakes.

On the Issue of Justice

Justice is the greatest of all social virtues. It is the precious basis of peace. We know that given the limitations of the human condition, perfect justice is generally an unattainable good in this world, although it does not prevent us from eternally wishing for the greatest justice possible. Justice is not revenge; on the contrary, it excludes it. A crime is not punished or repaired by committing a similar crime. No one has the right to harm another individual, much less to attack someone else under the pretext of seeking justice. Whoever does this is also a human rights criminal and deserves social condemnation. To approve personal revenge is to replace law with violence and to allow the law of force to prevail over reason and justice.

On the subject of human rights violations, the clarification and acceptance of truth as it is in the report is already an important part of achieving justice for the victims. Moral vindication of the victims' dignity and the payment of reparations to their relatives, as proposed in the report, are also acts of justice. This is not enough, however; justice also demands that the fate of the missing people be revealed and that responsibilities for human rights violations be determined.

As for the bodies of missing people, the truth established by the report is not complete given that in most of the cases in which detained and missing people were executed and their bodies were not delivered to their relatives, the commission was unable to find their bodies.

As for determining responsibilities, it is a task that, in a state of law, corresponds to the courts of justice, in keeping with the legal order and its corresponding guarantees. The Commission of Truth and Reconciliation has not been able to go into this aspect because the decree that created it also denied it this faculty by virtue of clear constitutional precepts. In both cases, the commission has sent the respective records to the corresponding court. I hope that the courts will comply appropriately with their mission and carry out extensive investigations for which, I understand, the current amnesty law cannot be an obstacle.

Terrorism and Violence

The criterion I have explained must not be interpreted by anyone as a sign of tolerance or weakness in the struggle against terrorism and violence by extremist sectors. It is my government's decision to combat—with the greatest energy—terrorism and all forms of violence, whoever it comes from. The important thing is to find effective mechanisms for defeating violence and putting an end to them. The experience of other countries demonstrates that the law is more effective than simple armed confrontations. We resist accepting that to combat terrorism—which is repulsive because, among other reasons, it violates human rights—it is necessary to use methods that result in similar violations because such methods are morally unacceptable and in practice, they help nourish the cycle of violence.

Decisions

Considering the report to which I have referred, and taking into consideration the aforementioned reflections, I think that to face the problems stemming from human rights violations with the greatest possible responsibility, efficiency, and speed, it is necessary to adopt the following measures:

First: I fervently call on my fellow countrymen to accept the truth established in the report and to adjust their conduct to that acceptance.

Second: Taking into account the suggestions made in the report, I publicly and solemnly assert the personal dignity of the victims who were denigrated by criminal charges that were never verified and for which they never had a chance or appropriate means to defend themselves.

Third: This month the government will send Congress a draft bill formalizing the report's proposals on a single reparation pension for close relatives of the victims, a special process to declare the deaths of detained missing people, other social contributions, and the creation of a public law institution that will take charge of the tasks pointed out by the report.

Fourth: Today I submitted a note and a copy of the report to the Supreme Court asking that it instruct the lower courts to speed up all pending trials involving human rights violations and to begin the new trials that may result from this report. In my opinion, the current amnesty, which this government respects, cannot be an obstacle for court-ordered investigations into responsibility for human rights violations, particularly in cases of missing people.

Fifth: The government will ask—through the justice minister and in accordance with Article 26 of the Penal Proceedings Code—for the intervention of the Attorney General's Office each time it is deemed necessary.

Sixth: I will personally ask the Armed Forces commanders in chief and the Carabineros director for their institutions' cooperation in finding the bodies of those who were arrested and are missing and of those who were executed and whose remains have not been delivered to their families.

Seventh: The government has given special instructions to all public order and security forces for their diligent cooperation with the courts to help in the investigations of cases that have been mentioned.

Eighth: The government will soon send a bill to Congress, as proposed by the Chilean ombudsman, creating a people's defender to watch for human right violations.

Ninth: The Justice Ministry will form a task force as soon as possible to prepare the necessary bills to introduce the reforms that the Commission of Truth and Reconciliation has suggested to better protect human rights.

Independent of all this, I am announcing that in keeping with some of the report's suggestions, the government has prepared bills to perfect and modernize the courts. This is an issue with a lot of support in the country and I am seeking the support needed in Congress to present the bills for discussion as soon as possible.

Concluding this speech, I beg all my countrymen to make an effort to accept this truth with integrity and responsibility. We should be able to learn from this experience so that something like this can never happen again. This is everyone's task and no one can hide from it. If the pain, the horrors, and the just indignation push us to hate and promote violence, we will stumble into the same mistakes that caused the horrors. It will mean a resumption of the fight among brothers, the destruction of our new democracy, and a renunciation of the peace we all yearn for.

All Chileans can be sure that the government will fulfill its duty in accordance with the moral principles guiding it, with no other purpose than accomplishing justice, reconciliation, and the fatherland's well-being. But this is not a task for the government alone. The other state branches have to do their part. The armed institutions, the spiritual authorities, the social organizations, and the national community as a whole, have to do their part. I am asking them all for their cooperation so that together—respecting and helping each other with understanding and generosity—we can do what is necessary to heal the wounds of the past and build a future with justice, progress, and peace for Chile. Good night.

Doctor Accused of Human Rights Abuses Killed

PY0303195491 Madrid EFE in English 1913 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Santiago, March 3 (EFE)—A Chilean military doctor, thought to have links with human rights abuses allegedly committed under the former dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet, was gunned down along with his wife on Sunday [3 March], police said.

The slaying of Carlos Perez Castro and his wife in the city of Rancagua, 86 km south of Santiago, comes a day before President Patricio Aylwin is due to unveil a report concerning human rights abuses during Pinochet's near 17-year-long rule. Police said they suspected the killings were connected to the publication of the report, entitled "Truth and Reconciliation."

Rights and leftist groups had frequently accused Perez of being linked to Chile's now-defunct secret police body, the National Information Center, and of involvement in human rights abuses.

The government has said the rights report, which covers the period 11 September, 1973 to 10 March, 1990, does not name any officials suspected of human rights violations. The omission has angered the families of some 3,500 people who are thought to have died or disappeared under the dictatorship, although the report does spell out proposals to pay compensation to the relatives of the missing.

Local radio stations attributed Sunday's killings to the leftist Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR). The FPMR made an unsuccessful assassination attempt on Pinochet in September 1986 and has sporadically continued its armed activities despite the return to democracy last March with Aylwin's taking of office.

Government, Army Reaction Noted

PY0403011691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2323 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Santiago, 3 Mar (EFE)—The Chilean Government has repudiated and regretted the murder of a military doctor and his wife, which occurred today in Rancagua, 86 km south of Santiago, and has said that the cabinet will not be intimidated by those who wish to alter the atmosphere of peace and reconciliation that "it seeks for the country."

According to an official declaration from Interior Minister Enrique Krauss, the government has ordered a complete investigation into the murder to find those responsible and to apply the antiterrorist law that is in force.

Dr. Carlos Hernan Perez Castro, 52, and his wife Anita Luisa Schlager Casanueva, were killed with automatic weapons at 0315 (0615 GMT) today as they were entering their house on returning from a party.

Leftist sectors had accused the doctor of violating human rights during the former Chilean military regime as a member of the National Intelligence Center (CNI), the secret police of the time.

"Justice by one's own hand is the law of the jungle," the Chilean interior minister said as he voiced the government's position. Krauss added that this is "an absolutely despicable" crime in light of efforts across the country to consolidate the state of law and attain national reconciliation.

In an official communique, the Army reported that it will remain in state of alert in light of this kind of aggression and that it "will not give up its constitutional mission to guarantee internal security." The Army attributed the attack to "a group of people whose feelings were recently aggravated by a campaign conducted by sectors that, although minorities, receive broad media coverage."

Although no group has claimed responsibility for the murder, the press holds the ultra-leftist Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, which insists on resorting to armed struggle, responsible.

Volodia Teitelboim, Communist Party of Chile secretary general, attributed the attack to "a dark plan that is afoot," is meant to prevent the truth about human rights violations from being known, and is carried out by former security agents.

The murder of the doctor and his wife will increase tensions in Chile on the night before Chilean President Patricio Aylwin releases the "Truth and Reconciliation" report about human rights violations during General Augusto Pinochet's military regime.

Two Mormon Chapels Bombed; No Injuries Reported

PY0403175291 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Two Mormon chapels have been attacked with bombs in different districts in Santiago, receiving minor damage. The first attack was carried out against the chapel at 5810 [street name indistinct], Lo Prado District, where unidentified individuals set off 200 grams of plastic explosive. The bomb caused minor damage to the chapel's front door and windows.

A similar attack took place against another Mormon chapel at 3860 Los Aromos Street, Renca District. There were no casualties in either attack.

Supreme Court Head Reveals Anti-Court Campaign

PY0203001091 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] In his address to open the 1991 judicial year, Supreme Court President Luis Maldonado has reported the existence of a campaign against the Chilean court and justices orchestrated by various sectors. The text of the speech, which was read by Supreme Court Justice Roberto Davila, reviewed the judicial branch's main achievements and concerns during 1990, and its plans for the current year.

Luis Maldonado harshly referred to the campaign of criticism he reported. [recorded passage indistinct]

Maldonado also noted that a country's maturity can be measured by its ability to recognize the real possibilities of a state branch, at a determined historical moment, to fully exercise its duties and implement justice.

In his annual report, Maldonado also said: If it is clear that human justice regarding basic issues such as human rights is limited in times of democracy, it was all the more limited before 1990, because the judicial branch was alone and its investigations were subject to action by other state branches.

Supreme Court and Appellate Court justices, Justice Minister Francisco Cumplido, and other guests attended the ceremony.

Maldonado said that the court had been more active during 1990 and that the number of pending cases had been reduced.

Regarding the government's plan to reform the judicial branch, Maldonado said it should be based on four basic principles but that, on the whole, it is a necessary action. [recorded passage indistinct]

Reform in the judicial branch reform must be based on a calm and balanced assessment of the true social situation. It must also come up with technical, human, and material resources to guarantee better performance, the judicial branch's independence from the legislative branch and the government, and an organizational reform that covers all aspects of the problem, including the resources, police participation, and jurisdictional matters.

Maldonado concluded by stating that the judicial branch is assessing the draft reform and the plan to create special commissions and that it will soon convey its opinion to the executive branch.

Designated Senator Carlos Letelier Bobadilla said the government had not drawn up any draft reform designed to improve the judicial branch but was only seeking to deprive the Supreme Court of its leadership [descabezar].

Letelier attended the opening of the judicial branch activities. He was approached by journalists who asked him to explain his position on the reform announced by the executive branch. He said an attempt was being made to politicize the judicial branch through initiatives which are currently being analyzed. He emphatically said that there was no initiative designed to attain the objectives the authorities claim to be seeking.

USSR Labor Union Delegation Conducts Visit

PY0403233091 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Feb 91 p C 6

[Text] A delegation of the Moscow Federation of Workers Unions [name as published] is visiting Chile to learn about the experience of Chilean workers within the framework of a free market economy and to establish cooperation ties.

The USSR labor delegation has met with Labor Ministry staff, the CUT [United Labor Federation] executive committee, the Confederation of Santiago Labor Unions, and pensioners. The delegation also visited the IPAL [expansion unknown] food factory, the INMET [expansion unknown] Inc. metalworking plant, the El Aguila textile plant, and the Artel stationery factory.

The Moscow Federation of Workers Unions has a membership of about 6 million workers from 36 trades in the USSR.

According to Tamara Chernyakova, vice president of the Moscow Federation of Workers Unions, the delegation wants to find out about the activities of labor unions in private companies because the Soviet Union is currently working toward a free market economy. Chernyakova added that it is very important to find out about "situations that may crop up at Soviet companies to be able to defend the interests of the workers as far as their salaries, working hours, and medical care is concerned."

Boris Alkin [name as published], a member of the International Department of the Moscow Federation of Workers Unions, stated that perestroyka allows workers to engage in discussions and make proposals and that the problems it is facing are merely the result of the effort to create a new system.

It has been reported that the Soviet delegation will leave Chile this afternoon after visiting Santiago.

Visit by Romanian Prime Minister Roman Previewed

PY0203145291 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Romanian Ambassador Constantin Tunsanu has said that Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman's visit to Chile between 4 and 7 March has a special meaning because both countries are going through relatively similar processes of transition toward full democracy.

The ambassador said both countries are interested in practical economic relations and the strengthening of political links that are already very good. Tunsanu reported two agreements will be signed during Roman's visit: a technical and economic cooperation agreement and a trade agreement. Tunsanu added that the two countries are trying to establish a cultural exchange program and are sponsoring an agreement between the two countries' chambers of commerce.

Prime Minister Petre Roman will arrive in Chile at 1700 on 4 March. He will be received at the airport by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma. Roman will meet with President Patricio Aylwin, Supreme Court Chief Justice Luis Maldonado, Economy Minister Carlos Ominami, and Production and Commerce Federation leaders during his stay in Chile.

On 5 March Roman will travel to Valparaiso to meet with Senate President Gabriel Valdez and Chamber of Deputies President Antonio Viera-Gallo. Roman will depart from the country at 1030 on 7 March. Foreign Minister Enrique Silva will bid him farewell at the airport.

Colombia

Segment of Oil Pipeline Blown Up in Antioquia

PA0403141891 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1217 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Bello, Antioquia—Last night unidentified men blew up the Sebastopol-Medellin multiple purpose pipeline in Niquia, Bello municipality, causing a severe loss of a special grade fuel which is pumped from Barrancabermeja.

Authorized sources told this station that the explosion destroyed eight meters of the pipleline and caused a fire, which was put out by the metropolitan fire department. The pipeline carried the fuel from Barrancabermeja to the Sebastopol station in Puerto Berrio, where it was then pumped to the Antioquia capital.

Colombian Petroleum Enterprise technicians assessed the damage and said that a larger fuel spill was averted because the pipeline's valves were shut.

Guerrillas Reiterate Willingness To Talk

PA0403143491 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1217 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Florencia—The Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG] reiterated today its willingness to talk and accused the government of not wanting a dialogue. The CNG said this is because the government's military presence has increased in Uribe Municipality in Meta Department over the past few days.

In an open letter addressed to Government Minister Humberto de la Calle, Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, National Liberation Army, and the dissident faction of the People's Liberation Army have requested that an area in Uribe be temporarily cleared of the military in order to start the talks that could lead to peace and harmony.

The guerrillas also reported that two delegations dispatched by the CNG to select the site for the meetings with top government delegates have been killed in clashes with the Army in the general area of Uribe.

CNG Wants Removal of Battalions From La Uribe

PA0503022091 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0004 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Report by William Calderon]

[Text] There is nothing definite yet as to when and where the government will meet with the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG]. There is, however, a new possibility of rapprochement, that is through the so-called partial dialogues with one or more guerrilla fronts.

The CNG only has 10 days left before the deadline given by the government expires for it to accept the demobilization process and participate in the National Constituent Assembly as of 15 March.

In a communique issued today, the CNG presented an excuse saying that the government had not given it sufficient guarantees. According to Tirofijo [Manuel Marulanda Perez, commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC] and the priest Perez [Father Manuel Perez, leader of the Army of National Liberation, ELN], more troops have been sent to La Uribe, where an exploratory commission of the guerrillas were seeking a site for the dialogue.

In a letter sent to the government minister, the CNG insisted today that the battalions stationed at La Uribe should withdraw. The high military commands feel this is a strategy by the guerrillas for the government to apply less pressure than was imposed since the operations against Casa Verde. Even though there are at least 3,000 soldiers of the 7th Brigade and of the Mobile Brigade at La Uribe, the commander of the military forces insists there are some areas that are not guarded by the Army.

In sharp contrast with this situation that has bogged down the process with the FARC and the ELN, there is now a possibility of holding partial dialogues. This past weekend, the 4th FARC Front set the first precedent in Antioquia Department while the 24th Front did something similar in Santander Department.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Could this type of dialogue be held in various regions?

[Government Minister Humberto de la Calle Lombana] I would say that there are possibilities for a solution that could be broken down by region. We believe, however, that a true and lasting peace with the groups that are still up in arms should follow a national overall plan covering all groups. [end recording]

This possibility brings up other questions: How far would the demobilization process be delayed with each of the 47 fronts of the FARC? What are the specific possibilities of achieving peace with all of them?

Quintin Lame To Sign 'Final' Peace Accord

PA0403131591 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 04 Mar 91

[Text] Carlos Andrade, a 23-year-old Indian, will be the Quintin Lame Commando Unit representative at the National Constituent Assembly. This has been decided in Inza, Cauca Department, by the guerrilla group that will sign the first agreement for its demobilization this week. Mario Arboleda filed this report from the mountains of Cauca Department:

[Begin recording] [Arboleda] This week, after seven years of clandestine armed fighting, the Quintin Lame Commando Unit will demobilize, thanks to the agreements reached with the government.

On 3 March the guerrillas began the necessary steps for disarming at the Pueblo Nuevo campsite in Caldono, Cauca Department. The final agreement will be signed here on 6 March.

This phase of the talks, which began during the Barco administration and has continued successfully during the present administration, has been the most significant.

All fronts of the Quintin Lame Commando Unit, which operated in Cauca in support of the basic cause, are converging on the camp.

[Gildardo Fernandez, Quintin Lame commander] We foresee total success in all our activities after our reincorporation into civilian life.

[Arboleda] With the creation of the Constituent Assembly and our access to it, the talks, which have now entered their final phase, have been greatly facilitated.

[Fernandez] We can perform organizational and political work so that the Indian movement can gradually become stronger.

[Arboleda] With the silencing of their guns life has changed for some 300 Quintin Lame guerrillas. Despite being concentrated in this remote camp, the stress of fighting and pursuing and being pursued by the military is no longer a worry for these people who now only think of peace. [end recording]

If everything goes as planned, these guerrillas, mostly Paez Indians, will return to their villages in less than 90 days.

Gaviria's U.S. Trip, Meeting With Bush Analyzed

PA0403154791 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Feb 91 pp 1A, 6A

[By Jose Clopatofsky, special correspondent for EL TIEMPO]

[Text] Washington— Following a formal meeting between the presidents of Colombia and the United States at the White House, the two countries reaffirmed yesterday their close and unified purpose of going to the end and winning the war against narcotics trafficking and drug consumption throughout the world.

President George Bush talked with Gaviria Trujillo for two hours, during which time he reviewed the problem of narcotics trafficking, the economic needs of the country, and the new measures related to extraditing those who have engaged in drug trafficking—with which he fully agreed—and other sources of cooperation and support for this problem.

At the end of the meeting, the first part of a $41-million assistance was granted in order to assist the Colombian economy in the struggle against narcotics trafficking and narco-terrorism.

The $20 million that will go into the national treasury for rehabilitation programs in Medellin are the only specific figures resulting from this visit, in which it was evident that relations between the two countries have gone beyond the limits of assistance and economic aid and have entered a territory where strategies and solidarity are more important than temporary pain relievers.

For example, President Bush referred in his speech to Colombia's courage in its struggle against drug trafficking and described the struggle as heroic when he mentioned President Gaviria personally, who was recently affected by this wave of crimes as one of his relatives was kidnapped and murdered. He also referred in general to the respect and admiration that our country merits.

"Our goals are clear, and together we will achieve them. God bless your marvelous people and thank you for being with us, " Bush told Gaviria when he bid him farewell on the southern portico of the White House, where he talked with the international press.

Bush used an informal tone during his speech, to which Gaviria replied with an impromtu speech in good English. Bush even quoted Bolivar and Santander, and it was just the right thing when he said: "Wars gave us independence, and the laws gave us liberty." Quoting Bolivar in exile, he added: "We are seeing the light and we do not want to return to darkness." He also emphasized the overall nature of the drug problem when he referred to the horizones both nations have and toward which this meeting gave a definite course.

"We are determined to cope with that enemy. I am convinced more and more after this meeting, that we will win that struggle."

Bush thanked Colombia for its support at the United Nations with regard to the Persian Gulf war, a conflict which he said "was doing well" when the reporters asked him as he left his office at the end of the meeting.

On economic issues, Bush emphasized Colombia's interest in receiving the benefits of his offer to the Andean countries for better marketing opportunities for its products and trusted that the U.S. Congress will accelerate this process and launch its program. This topic was also touched on by Gaviria in his speech, which was very short and significant and through which he assured that the drug cartels will be dismanteled. He also ratified his confidence in the new judicial system that the United States blessed without making any fuss or special comments at any official level.

Gaviria said: "With all the efforts we are making and will continue to make, I am sure we will dismantle the cartels. We will continue, as always, fighting against narcotics trafficking."

When he concluded his speech, Gaviria said "in the near future, we want to have a free trade treaty with the United States. Gaviria concluded his speech at noon

when the sun was shining, yet this was no time for changing the heavy winter coats. The only person who dared challenge the climate was Gaviria, while Bush asked for his coat to step outside the White House.

In the afternoon, President Gaviria was at Blair House, sticking to the agenda of meetings with U.S. officials at various levels. His first meeting was with Secretary of State Baker. When leaving the meeting, Baker said that both wars "were doing well and progress was being made toward victory," referring to the conflict in the gulf and the battle against narcotics trafficking.

Gaviria later met with the secretary of defense, and later on with the attorney general of the United States, for whom the Colombian judicial issue is vital.

Everything has been more along the lines of diplomacy and explanations rather than searching for advantages or opportunities. Undoubtedly, Gaviria had much to clarify and needed to soothe the Washington establishment for which the most recent measures and results have been surprising. This topic was broached time and time again in all of the meetings he held with the Bush Cabinet.

A point that merited special interest from Richard Thornburg, attorney general of the United States, was brought up by Gaviria and concerns the situation and treatment of Colombian prisoners in U.S. jails. To this respect, Thornburg promised the Colombian Government that he would allow three Colombian lawyers to visit without any restrictions the prisons they wanted to and make any suggestions.

There were no other major announcements until 1700, when the Colombian president held a news conference to report on the talks between the two governments.

Treaties were signed, but the text of the treaties have not yet been disclosed and there is special curiosity—particulary about the exchange of judicial evidence, a topic that will be handled by a special agency of both governments for each specific case. The rest of the agenda in Washington goes along the lines of what Bush defined as "support and solidarity," and what Gaviria wants: "A dignfied and efficient treatment of the markets rather than help and assistance in transitory moneys."

Meanwhile, Colombian First Lady Ana Milena Munoz availed herself of her visit to propose a summit of first ladies to promote the implementation of the agreement of the Children's Summit signed in New York last September.

The visit of a foreign head of state to the capital of world power is no news unless this individual says or does something out of the ordinary. Until early Tuesday morning, the Colombian president had followed a routine itinerary in this city. One of his stops was an early morning visit to Arlington Cemetery. A large military guard escorted him with flags of all countries and weapons and received him the entrance of the amphitheater, an enormous building housing the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers.

Arlington is a corner of the United States that has a part of the souls of all of its citizens and in a certain way of the world, because under its tomb stones are buried the memories and horrors of the wars in which this country, due to the inevitable game of power, has participated.

Paper Surveys Constituent Assembly Meetings

PA0503043991 Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 25 Feb 91 p 6

[Article by Cesar Ruiz]

[Text] Congress, peace, and extradition were the main subjects discussed by members of the Constituent Assembly during the first three weeks of sessions.

At the end of the so-called overall deliberations, each individual assembly member laid the groundwork of what he intends to include in the new constitution. There is a unanimous desire to reform to the congress. There are two clear tendencies. One that wants a unicameral system, such as the M-19 [19 April Movement], and another that wants to keep both chambers. However, they have a common objective—a reduction in the number of congressmen.

The defense of each proposal was based on historical fact and the congressmen did not forget to mention the case of England, where the movement from a society with feudal characteristics to a democratic regime led to the creation of the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

The Democratic Alliance defended the unicameral concept by saying that "a single chamber makes the lawmaking process more coherent because it does not subject the legislative process to the chambers holding differing positions, it clearly defines legislative responsibilities, and, by making congress smaller, it increases the quality of the congressmen."

Meanwhile those who supported a bicameral congress said that "with a single chamber, there is the risk of becoming authoritarian and there could be a dismembering of the democratic principle," Diego Uribe Vargas said.

According to Augusto Ramirez, "congress should be strengthened in its two chambers by freeing it from its well-known vices, by prohibiting its members from accepting any other public post, and by granting them the vote of censure."

Other arguments about these concepts were made and, beginning next week, they will be discussed in depth in each of the commissions.

Since the initial speech, the peace issue was the leading topic discussed by members of the Constituent Assembly.

"We want the Constituent Assembly to be a factor of peace," Aida Abella said the day the deliberations were opened.

From then on, all speakers in one way or the other linked their arguments to the search for social, political, and economic order that can allow Colombians to live peacefully with ideological tolerance.

Assembly member Antonio Galan spoke about the recognition of some basic principles such as "peace, freedom, solidarity, and development being a common heritage of all humanity."

He added: "Peace is the result of fair treatment and exchanges among individuals and peoples who are free, and it takes place only among individuals and peoples who are free."

Guillermo Plazas Alcid held the same opinion. He said: "This assembly has its origin in the urgent need of the Colombian people to attain peace. If at the end of its work, it has not laid down real groundwork, we would painfully have to accept that the Colombian people are doomed, in matters of achieving peace, to share the frustrating fate of Sisyphus."

As this was going on, the government agreed to hold a dialogue with the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, and the possibility of reinitiating the peace process was opened.

That is to say, while the Constituent Assembly is deliberating, the country's peace efforts continue to be a shadow. It is one of the many truths that has not been discussed as a major topic, but which continues to be a stone in the constitutional shoe.

The first to bring up the subject of extradition was Hernando Londono. It was accepted with reservations, but it became the topic of the day. The myth of taboo subjects began to fall. It was talked about in the halls, but not in public.

The argument was simple: "We are, along with Juan Gomez, unyielding enemies of extradition. If we are going to strengthen the judicial system, how are we really going to do it, we cannot justify the trial of Colombians in another country when we can do it here, by means of legislation in which we can make use of evidence that may exist abroad."

They even proposed the repatriation of Colombians who are detained abroad.

Later, various groups called out against extradition, such as the M-19 [19 April Movement], Ivan Marulanda, and Horacio Serpa. Serpa said: "I have repeated that conceptually I am against the extradition of Colombians. It is clear that I favor the correct application of justice in Colombia for crimes committed by Colombians abroad."

It can be said that the time for definitions has now arrived. The harmony for the exchange of ideas gives way to the definition of positions as to what is intended under a new institutional order.

Now it really can be said that from today the great national debate begins—the carpentry work to mold the rules of the game for the new century.

Right-wing and left-wing ideologies, and those that are neither, are off to a good start. There is the precedent that it is possible to reach a consensus in the country, and proof of this was the joint presidency—a triumvirate that not only behaved like the "Holy Trinity," but assumed the leadership with responsibility.

The end of the beginning has arrived for what assembly members call the New Colombia.

Decree 416 Instituting War Taxes Published

PA0103234291 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Feb 91 p 8a

["Text" of Decree 416, creating three temporary taxes to help reestablish law and order, dated 11 February 1991]

[Text] Finance and Public Credit Ministry Decree No. 416, dated 11 February 1991, whereby measures are dictated to reestablish and preserve law and order.

The president of the Republic of Colombia, exercising the authority vested in him by Article 121 of the Constitution, and according to Decree 1038 of 1984,

Whereas:

Through Decree 1038 of 1984, the government declared that law and order have been disrupted, and imposed a state of siege throughout the nation;

The causes for declaring law and order disrupted and establishing a state of siege throughout the nation, as expressed in Decree 1038 of 1984, are that armed groups have repeatedly attacked the constitutional regime through deplorable acts. These groups have alarmed the citizens. They have perpetrated terrorist actions in various parts of the country, destroying many passenger buses.

In the past few days these groups have increased their terrorist attacks against passenger buses, oil pipelines, electricity pylons, communications systems, and other sectors of public services, thereby furthering the disruption of law and order;

For the prompt reestablishment of law and order, the Armed Forces and the state security organizations must be supplied with the means needed to face the armed groups responsible for the terrorist attacks.

The government does not have enough resources to meet the extra and additional requirements resulting from this new type of violent action;

We must, therefore, create new, special, and temporary resources set aside exclusively to finance the requirements of the Armed Forces and state security organizations. Resources are also needed in reestablishing and operating passenger services to counter the causes that led to the declaration of the state of siege. These causes, which disrupt law and order, have increased recently.

The Supreme Court of Justice has ruled that the national governemnt—according to Articles 121, 43, and 206 of the Constitution—is empowered to levy special provisional taxes in order to face the causes that led to declaring law and order disrupted, and to prevent this situation from becoming worse;

On 7 July 1955, the Supreme Court ruled, "when Article 43 reads 'in times of peace, only Congress, the departmental assemblies, and the municipal councils can impose 'taxes,' it is tantamount to saying, "however, in times of war or domestic commotion, the government can make use of this power, according to the procedures stipulated in Article 121." [quotation marks as published]

That to this same effect, in a ruling dated 6 September 1967, he said: "Meanwhile, with regard to taxes, Articles 43 and 206 of the Constitution authorize the government, during times of upheaval and within the provisions of Article 121, to create new taxes and modify those that already exist. Because Article 43 states that in 'times of peace only the Congress, departmental assemblies, and municipal councils are authorized to impose taxes,' it clearly eliminates the prohibition when the nation is in a state of siege. Article 206 prohibits, in times of peace, 'the establishment of contributions or taxes that are not included in the income tax budget, or the creation of disbursements from the treasury that are not included in the expense budget.' Nevertheless, these two limitations are not applicable under a state of upheaval, because the restoration of law and order could require the creation of taxes that are not included in the income tax budget, and disbursements that were not included in the expense budget as is implicitly stated in the law in question."

That recently, reiterating its authority in a ruling dated 23 February 1983, the congressional plenum clearly stated: "Obviously, in 'times of upheaval,' because Article 43 does not prohibit it, the government can also decree specific and special taxes to cover the expenses of a war—the only tax that it can directly adopt sheltered by Article 121 in accordance with Article 43—or to deal with a declared economic emergency, for the specific purpose of warding off a war (Articles 122 and 43)."

That the national government, based on the aforementioned constitutional articles and on the legal provisions already mentioned, believes it cannot postpone the creation of special taxes exclusively aimed at financing the expenses that are incurred during confrontations with terrorist actions carried out by armed groups that continue to disturb the public order, and with the purpose of achieving its quick recovery:

Decrees:

Article 1: As long as public order is disrupted and as long as the national territory remains in a state of seige, the revenue obtained from the Special Contributions for the Restoration of the Public Order, which have been created by this decree in a temporary manner, will be allocated to the financing of the expenses that need to be made for the restoration of public order under the terms of Articles 6 and 7 of this decree.

Article 2: Taxpayers and those who file their income tax declarations must pay a Special Contribution for the Restoration of the Public Order equivalent to five percent of their income tax for fiscal year 1990. The aforementioned contribution shall be included in the income tax declaration for fiscal year 1990, and it shall be paid off within the deadlines that are given.

Paragraph 1: Natural persons and their inheritance, without liquidity, whose income taxes for fiscal year 1990 are below 1 million pesos, will not be forced to pay the Special Contribution for the Restoration of the Public Order referred to in this article.

Article 3: To create, as a Special Contribution for the Restoration of the Public Order for the year 1991, a surcharge equivalent to two percentage points (two percent) in addition to the 12 percent sales tax currently imposed on international long distance telephone service.

Article 4. A Special Contribution for the Restoration Public Order is hereby created to be applied to the exploitation or exporting of crude, natural gas not produced in conjunction with oil, coal, and ferronickel during 1991. The contribution will be paid by producers or exporters of those products, as follows:

a. Crude oil. Based on the total produced in 1990, at the rate of 320 pesos for each barrel produced.

b. Natural gas. Based on the total produced in 1990, at the rate of 13 pesos for each 1000 cubic feet of gas produced.

c. Coal. Based on the total exported during 1990 at a rate of 80 pesos for each ton exported.

d. Ferronickel. Based on the total exported during 1990 at a rate of 14 pesos for each pound exported.

Paragraph 1. The contribution to which this article refers will be paid in ten (10) equal monthly installments within the first five (5) days of each month, beginning on 1 March 1991, in the form of a deposit made to the Bank of the Republic in the name of the General Treasury of the Nation, in line with the terms indicated in the regulations.

Paragraph 2. Producers of crude, natural gas, or coal, who begin production or export activities in 1991, will pay the respective contribution at the rates indicated in the above clauses, applied to the amounts produced or exported, as appropriate. Payments will be made beginning on 1 March 1991, within the first five (5) days of the month following the month in which production or export begins.

Paragraph 3. Those percentages of production that are used as royalties are exempt from the contribution mentioned in the present article.

Article 5. Failure to comply with the obligations mentioned in the foregoing articles will be punishable under the provisions established in the Tax Statute, according to the procedures established therein. Control in this regard will be exercised by the National Tax Directorate.

Article 6. Revenue collected from the Special Contributions for the Restoration Public Order mentioned in this decree will be used for the creation and equipping of mobile brigades of the Army and the National Police, as well as for operational or investment expenses of those two bodies and of the Armed Forces and state security organizations, expenses such as personal services, the purchase of equipment, material, supplies, weapons, ammunition, fuel and spart parts, the recruiting of soldiers and policemen, the maintenance of air and ground equipment, field ration supplies, the feeding of soldiers, communications and transportation, intelligence services, the payment of rewards and other confidential expenses, support for military and police operations, and the construction and reconstruction of garrisons, guard posts, and other military and police installations.

Article 7. After priority is given to the expenses listed in the foregoing paragraph, revenue may also be used for expenditures that the national government considers appropriate for the exclusive purpose of reestablishing and maintaining the provision of public transportation services by private enterprises.

Article 8. Revenue obtained from the contributions created in the present decree may be used only for the purposes indicated in Articles 6 and 7. Consequently, the diversion of such revenue to other purposes will make the official responsible liable to the criminal and disciplinary measures provided for in existing law.

Article 9. The present decree goes into effect on the date of its publication and supersedes any provisions that run contrary to it.

CNG Rejects War Tax

PA0203015591 Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 24 Feb 91 p 24

[Text] The members of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG], through a communique sent to the media, have stated their total rejection of Decree 416 of 1991 regarding the war tax.

The CNG said that by issuing that decree, the government will only prolong the war and deepen the armed conflict.

The rebels confirmed that, as long as the army is present in La Uribe and adjacent areas, the clashes will continue, thus, making it difficult to attain peace.

The CNG reiterated their will to participate in the National Constituent Assembly and explained that, guided by the Assembly, the government should seriously reform the justice system, the Armed Forces, and social rights, including the agrarian reform and public freedoms.

Meanwhile, Army Commander General Manuel Murillo said that the Armed Forces are willing to guarantee a dialogue between the CNG and the government in order to attain a peace agreement.

Gen. Murillo added that they will guarantee the meeting between these two commissions any place in the La Uribe area.

Peru

Cholera Epidemic Updated; 45,000 Cases Reported

PY0403162491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2127 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Lima, 3 Mar (EFE)—Nearly 12,000 cases of cholera have been reported so far in Chimbote, a port in northern Peru, although there has been a 30-percent decline in new cases over the last three days.

A spokesman for local health officials reported that 11,868 cases of cholera have been reported in Chimbote since the cholera epidemic broke out in that city—one week after it began in Chancay—and that 3,307 victims have been hospitalized. [passage omitted]

News media have reported that 54 Army officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers have been hospitalized at the local central hospital in the northern department of Tumbes. It has also been reported that 40 people have died from cholera in Piura, a department bordering Tumbes and Ecuador.

The Peruvian Government reported on 1 March that 45,000 people were suffering from cholera and that 193 people had died.

Fear Cited for Lower Inflation

PY0203124291 Madrid EFE in English 0915 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Lima, March 2 (EFE)—Fears that basic foodstuffs might be infected with the cholera disease sweeping Peru pushed prices down in February, resulting in a monthly rate of inflation almost half that registered in January, Peruvian officials said. Figures from the National Institute of Statistics (INE) showed that the price of fruit,

vegetables and fish fell in February, and that monthly inflation reached 9.4 percent. The increase was almost half January's inflation rate of 18 percent.

INE chief Felix Murillo said that the sharpest fall in prices was on fish. Murillo said that the price fell 13.2 percent in February after the government warned that the microbe which caused cholera could be found in uncooked fish, which Peruvians often eat raw marinated in lime juice.

The prospect of cheap fish, contaminated or not, is unlikely to counterbalance the havoc which the epidemic could wreak on the country's already-shaky economy. Peru's Latin American neighbors, and countries around the world, have banned the import of the fish, fruit and vegetables which are Peru's main exports.

Overall, the price of foodstuffs rose 3.6 per cent in February, while the highest increases were registered in the services sector with an average rise of 35.3 per cent, INE said.

According to government figures, almost 200 Peruvians have died during the month-long cholera epidemic and 45,000 are infected, although independent health organizations have suggested that the toll could be much higher.

* Editorial Discusses Nation's Present, Future

91SM0196A Lima PERU ECONOMICO in Spanish Jan 91 p 24

["FOZ"-signed editorial]

[Text] As a result of a number of isolated advances made by some government authorities, Peru has gained hope in these past five months. To advance further in creating the future this year, a better-integrated effort with a more precise direction and a more consistent team is needed.

The main economic goal of the government in 1991 should be to achieve a monthly inflation rate of no more than 2.5 percent. It would suffice to remind those who regard this as an unambitious goal that this is a figure which the Peruvian economy never achieved at any time during the decade of the 1980s. Achieving it in the first half of this year would suffice to have made this government worthy, in less than 12 months of administration, of the noble titles which the two preceding governments could not claim in a decade of economic errors.

It will be possible to achieve this goal beginning in March if the government retains the basic criteria for its stabilization program unchanged, and if it launches the announced program of structural reforms oriented toward promoting an increase in the efficiency and productivity of the economy, and thus, making greater well-being possible for the people of Peru.

This will not be an easy goal to achieve, because the government now finds itself involved in a slow and tedious process in which shortcomings and errors continue to resurface. With the dramatic dynamism of the early months in the past, personal ways of handling matters and an inadequate understanding of the duties involved in the positions of some of the new political figures is becoming more obvious, as is resistance to any change in outdated privileges. This is seen within the context of an institutional breakdown in many sectors, and is being taken advantage of by subversive and terrorist movements.

The people of Peru still do not know the president they elected eight months ago very well, but some aspects of his enigmatic personality are pleasing and have inspired approval. The fact that he goes fishing on Sundays alone with his family is a good sign. As a devotee of fishing, he is intrinsically cautious and mistrustful, which is not necessarily a bad thing in a country in which there are so many mussels and crabs. His mathematical skill is no guarantee of good administration, but it does at least suggest a person who requires that accounts be balanced. A calm man, he does not often lose his file documents, although in some cases it takes him a long time to make decisions. To a long history of Incas, viceroys, and dictators, he adds the authoritarian tradition of his Oriental ancestry. However, he seems aware of his own limitations, although he surrounds himself with personal advisers who are not always noted for their competence, nor even for their good reputations. He pays no attention to some of the major aspects of daily government routine, but there is no doubt that he is learning as he goes. Therefore, it is reasonable to suppose that in 1991 he will be a better president than he has been to date.

It would be optimistic to say the same of the prime minister, who in 1991 will have to expand his limited talents for improvising and using personal interaction to persuade and involve a poorly balanced and hesitant office staff, and a very often foolish and hostile Congress, in connection with the compromises involved in the process of reintegration. Not to mention the administrative team which has not yet been established, and which is urgently needed, in order to guarantee the success of the tax reform, and the atmosphere of conflict which has developed within the board of directors of the Central Bank and between its president and the minister of economy and finance.

This has led to speculation about how long Juan Carlos Hurtado will last in the post, with some believing that July is the most probable deadline. The problem with this scenario is that reintegration, if indeed it is a slow process, cannot be regarded as achieved, in terms of its first stage, until the debts to the multilateral credit bodies are settled, which is hardly likely to occur before the end of the year. Any change in the team before then would have a harmful impact abroad unless it could be perceived as a means of strengthening the proposed program of reforms.

This program entails reforms of three types. First, those designed to revise the economic role of the state (including the rationalization of the central government and the process of regionalization, the transfer of state enterprises to the private sector and making them subject to market competition, and the reestablishment of an efficient, impartial, clear, and just tax system). A second group has to do with the reforms needed to promote progress in the struggle against inflation, through greater efficiency in the allocation of resources (including such issues as the confirmation of land ownership, making labor stability more flexible, the strike law, the careful supervision of the development of the financial system). And, finally, there are reforms in education and in health policies, as well as in sectors dealing with public investments and the handling of problems related to poverty, in order to guarantee that the consumption and health indicators for the most vulnerable groups in society reflect recovery from the state of absolute poverty where they now find themselves.

Uruguay

Opposition Leaders Review Government's 1st Year

PY0203143091

[Editorial Report] Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish at 1000 GMT on 2 March carries in its regular newscast a one-minute report on the reactions of major opposition leaders to the first year of the Blanco Party administration.

The report says: "Senator Hugo Batalla, leader of the New Sector coalition, said that in its first year in power, the government did not choose the best course for the country, although he admitted that the government fulfilled its electoral promises. Batalla stressed that it was a difficult year for the government and for the people." The report then quotes Batalla as saying: "I do not believe the government can be said to have failed to comply with its electoral promises."

The report then quotes remarks by Broad Front leader General Liber Seregni. The report notes: "Seregni said that, unfortunately for the country and the people, his opinion of the first year of the administration is negative." The report quotes Seregni as adding: "I believe this year of the administration of President Lacalle has justified the criticism and observations we made of his program during the election campaign."

Ministry Officials Accused of Counterfeiting

PY0203144291 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Yesterday, two high-ranking Interior Ministry officials were indicted on charges of involvement in a plot to forge dollars that was uncovered by the Crime Prevention Department.

In this scandal, (Judge Mirka Nunez), of the Ninth Penal Chamber, yesterday indicted Police Inspector (Carlos Maria Pechera) on charges of illegal association to commit crimes and complicity for attempted circulation of counterfeit currency. Deputy Police Inspector (Diego Nozar) was also indicted on the same charges. (Nozar) was a private secretary for Inspector Nelson da Roza, the Interior Ministry national director [title as heard].

In addition, (Jorge Luis Flores) was indicted on charges of counterfeiting and association to commit crimes, and (Lugo Nelson Vazquez) was indicted on charges of counterfeit currency circulation and association to commit crimes. The judge began to question the four members of the counterfeiters' gang last week. The affair was uncovered when (Hugo Nelson Vazquez) tried to exchange $3,000 at a financial institution [words indistinct].

Feb Inflation Rate Reported at 3.5 Percent

PY0203160491 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Summary] The General Directorate of Statistics and Census has reported that the February inflation rate was 3.5 percent, that the accrued inflation rate for the first two months of the year was 10.98 percent, and that the accrued inflation rate for the past 12 months was 126.33 percent.

Salaries To Remain Unchanged

PY0203161091 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Herreraist sector Deputy Arturo Heber has reported that there will be no salary increase before June. This announcement was made after the February inflation rate was known to be 3.5 percent. Heber said the information on the inflation rate has been confirmed and the index is considerably smaller than the figures that were reported by the media. The February inflation rate is much smaller than the January rate. Let us recall that the inflation rate reached 7.2 [as received] percent in January.

Heber said this figure confirms that there is a downward trend that implies that the salary negotiations that were closed in December will be subject to revision on 1 June, despite predictions by many people who warned that the negotiations would have to be revised in March. He added that salaries will not be changed for six months and that this leads to the conclusion that we are seeing the first positive results of the policy that was enforced in 1990, a policy that was quite harsh, but necessary.

Bank of Uruguay, Central Bank Settle Argument

PY0203170291 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Accountant Walter Hugo Pages, vice president of the Bank of Uruguay, has announced the settlement of a disagreement between his bank and the Central Bank,

adding that the Bank of Uruguay will now reformulate its policy on the basis of its available funds in local currency and of the sectors that will be given priority.

Pages told El Espectador that with settlement of the disagreement with the Central Bank, the Bank of Uruguay will be able to use some $200 million—provided by the Inter-American Development Bank—for capitalization and for implementation of several development plans. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

* Commentary Views Bush's Enterprise for Americas

91SM0198A Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 23 Jan 91 p 2 Sec. 2

[Simon Saez Merida commentary]

[Text] In his June 1990 speech, when Bush proposed the Enterprise for the Americas, he said, as a statement of principles, that protectionism paralyzes progress and a free market generates prosperity. This was a strategic policy line that Latin America was supposed to make its own, in addition to making sweeping changes in its commercial and tariff reforms, opening its doors to U.S. exports. His proposal was not formulated in friendly or diplomatic terms, but rather in terms of precisely stated conditions, making the restructuring of the national debt, the flow of investments, and the opening of the U.S. market subject to **adoption and implementation of economic and investment programs having the support of the international institutions,** read: IMF -World Bank. There is no choice. The terms are crystal clear, and anyone reading flexibility into the proposal is merely enjoying the exercise. In a word, this proposal would amount to simply taking the "package" that Perez has been proposing, and carrying it very much further. Its denunciation of protectionism, and its dithyramb to the virtues of the free market are, however, not a universally valid doctrine, but rather a discourse for consumption by third parties. It can be summed up in the dictum: "Do as I say, not as I do." For, while protectionism is condemned and the free market eulogized, the Foreign Trade Law remains in force. In this regard, there are no promises. That law seems to be, and is, preeminent over any trade agreement or pact that might be negotiated. It wears the mantle of an instrument of national security, a state policy that takes precedence over agreements having purely economic aims. And since the Omnibus Law is the most decisive crystallization of contemporary protectionism, the "Enterprise for the Americas" can promise whatever it wants to in connection with the liberalization of trade, but in the wee hours of the debate, the iron fist of the protectionist law will prevail. Something like reaching an agreement and being left clutching at straws. And the victims, aware or not of being such, dare not even ask for explanations. They sign the standard agreements and do not even raise their voices to ask that the omnipotent law be made part of the negotiations. For the Bush Administration, these silences, these omissions, these complicities are just great. The bite begins with the dictum that silence is consent.

This introduction is very much to the point because being, as it is, a proposal for a hemispherical free-trade union, "Enterprise for the Americas" is not even a strategy containing universal principles. The most obvious and immediate example of this is the case of the Malaysian proposal for an economic union, advanced by Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad. Malaysia's initiative is not original. It is simply modeled on the same strategic concept as Bush's proposal. Mahathir believes that the Asian Pacific countries must form an economic bloc to promote free trade among themselves. He points out that since the EEC [European Economic Community] has formed its own bloc, and the United States is seeking to do the same in the Western Hemisphere, the Asian Pacific cannot remain behind. His thesis is: Fight protectionism and strengthen free trade. And he addresses his proposal to all the countries of the area: Japan, China, South Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Burma, Brunei, Philippines, etc. Bold and daring though its initiative is, however, Malaysia is not one of the big but rather one of the smaller Pacific countries, and its proposal could remain up in the air until a more powerful country picked it up. The U. S. Government's reaction was swift. Under Secretary of State for Asian Affairs Richard Solomon dismissed the idea, terming it senseless and protectionist, adding that such a policy would propagate the formation of blocs and reduce the scale of world trade. Furthermore, he said that such a bloc was doomed to failure because it would consist of competing economies rather than complementary ones. The latter assertion can be and is arguable, since asymmetries much like those found on the American continent exist in the Asian Pacific as well. But it is not the main thrust of the United States' criticism. The problem, in this case as well, is again the duality of U. S. policy.

The forming of economic blocs is not new. And before the idea even occurred to Prime Minister Mahathir, it was already an old reality in Europe with the EEC, and more recently in North America with the United States-Canada agreements and their extension to Mexico. Malaysia's proposal is not going to precipitate the breakup of the GATT; the deadlock of the Uruguay Round in Brussels has already all but dealt it the final deathblow. During a visit to Venezuela in 1990, and just after having met with CAP [Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez], Lewis Coleman, vice president of the Bank of America, Venezuela's major creditor in the United States, exercising all the tricks of a dual policy, said that Venezuela's having joined the GATT was gratifying to him, as was the effort being made by the president of Venezuela in the direction of an "open economy," in that this was helpful to U. S. exports, but that the GATT, for the big countries, was on its last legs. He said that the world trend—note that this was in May 1990—was going toward the formation of economic blocs, the "rationalization of markets," and that multilateralism was in

question. For, while global trade relations were producing huge deficits, regionalized markets were dynamic and positive.

The Bush proposal hews to the line characterized by Mr. Coleman. A hemispheric trade bloc sponsored by the United States would be great for reducing its deficits, provided the other markets remained open, not forming regional blocs. All blocs tend to liberalize trade internally, but are protectionist vis-a-vis all the others. Blocs lead to protectionism. This is just as true for the bloc that Mahathir proposes as for the one being extolled by Bush. The U.S. Government, however, thinks that blocs with Canada and Mexico and with the entire continent are good if sponsored by the United States, but bad if other areas form their own without U. S. sponsorship. The same "philosophy" condemns Iraq's occupation of Kuwait as evil, reprehensible, and repugnant, because, as stated by Baker, following the Geneva meeting, "a large country (Iraq) cannot be permitted to invade a small country (Kuwait), as this undermines the institutional principles of the United Nations." Nevertheless, Panama was invaded, and continues to be occupied and supervised. The American trade bloc is good because it is under U. S. control. The Malaysian one is bad because Japan will be its controlling economy. Baker, of course, pontificated that the United States is a "nation of principles."

* President Perez' Leadership Style Described

91SM0198B Caracas ZETA in Spanish 17 Jan 91 p 24

[Jorge Dager commentary]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] I have known the president for more than 40 years, and I have shared imprisonments, exiles, and political militancy with him. I have also been his friend, less so during his periods as president. This is why I have always felt a personal concern in his regard. One cannot be indifferent to someone one has known for such a long time. I say this because, during the years of underground resistance, in my conversations with the illustrious Tachira-born Leonardo Ruiz Pineda, the name of Carlos Andres Perez—like Leonardo, a native of Rubio, the beautiful "Ciudad Pontalida," and, also like Leonardo, a militant of AD [Democratic Action] almost since his infancy—always used to come up. "Carlos Andres never loses an argument," Leonardo used to tell me. "He is like a Jalisco [a native of Jalisco, Mexico]." And Leonardo would add, "Every time he felt corralled in a discussion with me, he would extricate himself by pointing out that he knew a great deal because he had traveled a lot." [passage omitted]

It is a style whose fundamental characteristic is disdain for the intelligence of others, a characteristic that gives one the ability to express an opinion, without fear, on everything human and divine. The president would not hesitate to criticize the defense minister's thinking concerning even the most specialized aspects of the art of war, nor would he hesitate to counsel Irene Saez on how best to act on the runway. But what is more, he generally does all these things rather successfully. I have seen men, born in the stable, so to speak, change all their notions on cattle raising, from one day to the next, captivated by the ideas of the president. It is not mere happenstance that Carlos Andres is the only Venezuelan twice democratically elected the nation's constitutional president.

It is this style all his own—sufficient unto itself, if you will—that underlays the position taken by the president in regard to the increases in oil prices at the beginning of the "pacifist war" between Iraq and the rest of the world. Who among us—after listening to the president reason convincingly against those increases—could doubt the awesome calamity that would befall Venezuela if it received added billions of dollars? With the same steadfastness, the president has just finished assuring us that the domestic price increases do not justify the unions' demands for salary and wage increases, because they represent "a deception." What about the rises in food prices?

Perez's first term was characterized by an uncontrollable tendency to expand the role of the state through programs of a purely social-democratic cut. His present term is characterized by an unyielding determination to contract the role of the state by implementing a program that is actually neo-liberal. Ideologically, then, his two Administrations have been situated at opposite ends of the political spectrum, but his style as president has remained unchanged. It is always the same. The chief executive continues, now as before, devoted to his style of leadership, in which his disdain of public opinion, and his penchant for putting down his party by occasionally poking fun at its leaders, are things that come very naturally to him. In the end, almost everyone comes to believe that his is the ideal style for "demythologizing" the government and enabling him to run the country, barring the way, as it does, to the "manias" that delude the vast majority of Venezuelans.

* Zulia Governor Reviews Progress Made in 1990

91SM0198 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 21 Jan 91 p D-19

[Alonso Zambrano report]

[Text] Maracaibo (Special)—The governor of the state of Zulia, Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, submitted a report to the Legislative Assembly covering the political and administrative results of his first year in office.

He said that what could be called an "economic upturn" had set in during 1990, and can be expected to spread its roots during 1991, commensurate with the extent to which plans and projects provided for under the 5th Regional Development Plan and in the Consolidated Budget [for the public sector] are implemented.

He stated that in no way could the 1990 upturn be considered spectacular growth, but that the regional economy has definitely begun moving in a positive direction.

Consolidated spending, including the state's administrative and operational expenditures, and those of the national agencies within the state, the councils, universities, and PETROVEN [Venezuelan Oil Company]—he said—exceeded 90 billion bolivares in 1990, an amount that, as a component of aggregate demand, has had and will have a positive impact on the economy of the region.

He cited indicators, and pointed out that Zulia exported a total of 619,261 tons of nontraditional industrial and agricultural products to world markets, an increase of 32.7 percent with respect to 1989.

He said that conditions are already such that, in 1991, Zulia's economy will experience a substantial recovery in terms of growth, with positive effects in the social area.

From the standpoint of security, Alvarez Paz cited the reorganization of the state police, re-equipped with patrol vehicles bought in the United States.

He announced that the purchase of a quantity of weapons of totally new types, for about 25 million bolivares, is currently being negotiated.

"Once our police have been provided with the necessary equipment, we will be able to devote our efforts to uprooting the underworld from our society and making Zulia the safest place in Venezuela," said Alvarez Paz.

He stated that he plans to create new secretariats, including one for Agriculture, and one for Science and Technology.

With reference to the state's outlook for 1991, the governor specified that the consolidated public-sector investment in the region will total 130 billion bolivares.

Adding this consolidated investment sum to the consolidated general administrative and operating expenditures budget, will bring the total 1991 public-sector outlay for the region to 180 billion bolivares.

He explained that the above-mentioned investment outlay, will come from the Budget Act for 1991, implementation of the investment programs of the national agencies within the state, implementation of programs and projects contained in the state's investment plan, implementation of the petroleum industry's economic and social development plans, and the Housing Program Act.

This outlook, he said, reflects a projected growth of nearly 100 percent with respect to 1990.